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# Daily Report

# Latin America

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# Daily Report
## Latin America

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**NOTICE TO READERS:** An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.
An Ω indicates a Foreign Media Note.

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## Cuba

### Havana Notes Lifting of U.S. Embargo Against Vietnam

*FL0402145394 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Feb 94*

[Text] U.S. President William Clinton announced on 3 February the lifting of the economic embargo against Vietnam imposed during the war in 1964. Clinton announced the decision to revoke the measures blocking economic ties with Vietnam a week after the U.S. Congress' approval of a resolution calling for the end of the sanctions. Clinton cited Vietnam's cooperation to solve the issue of the 2,000 U.S. soldiers listed as missing during the war.

### Alarcon: Clinton Inherited U.S. Policy Toward Cuba

*FL0502025894 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Feb 94*

[Text] Today in Dresden, Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, said that U.S. President William Clinton has modified the U.S. policy toward Cuba, even though an eventual softening of the blockade would take place only if he were to be elected to a second term. In statements to DPA, Alarcon de Quesada pointed out that Clinton inherited the U.S. policy toward Cuba from the Bush administration, along with the Torricelli Law reinforcing the blockade that has affected Cuba for more than 30 years.

According to the same source, Alarcon de Quesada expressed moderate enthusiasm to his German hosts on the possibility of a softening of the blockade on Cuba during the second half of President Clinton's current term or in an eventual second term.

### Alarcon on Possibility of Lessening of U.S. Blockade

*FL0502191494 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 Feb 94*

[Text] In Germany, Ricardo Alarcon, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, affirmed that U.S. President William Clinton has moderated U.S. policy toward Cuba but added that an eventual lessening of the blockade will only take place if Clinton is reelected.

### Foreign Aid Helps Offset Effects of U.S. Embargo in Havana

*PA0402195594 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 4 Feb 94*

[Text] The Secretariat of Overseas Cooperation (Secretaria de Colaboracion del Exterior) of the Provincial Assembly of the People's Government in Havana reported that last year the Cuban capital received more than $4 million from foreign nations and international organizations. The report adds that in this context, the Secretariat maintained relations with more than 300 cities from different countries of the world.

Outstanding among these was Spain, where 200 towns contributed support. Buses, street cleaning equipment, ambulances, and school and automotive equipment were part of the donations made in 1993 in an effort to alleviate the shortages prompted by the U.S. blockade and the demise of the international socialist community.

### GRANMA Calls 'Summit of the Americas' Anti-Cuban

*PA0502201194 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1755 GMT 5 Feb 94*

[Text] Havana, 5 Feb (NOTIMEX)—In the opinion of the Cuban official press, the Summit of the Americas summoned by the United States is a "new maneuver" to halt Cuba's increasing links to Latin America and the Caribbean. The objective of this meeting slated for the second half of 1994 is "to cloud the broad continental recognition that Cuba has received in Latin American summits," published GRANMA, the official Communist Party of Cuba mouthpiece.

If Washington "intends at this stage to use their summit against Cuba, we believe they are too late. All the world's unipolarity could not attain such a goal, as anachronistic as it is shameful," according to the newspaper.

President Fidel Castro had also condemned this summit of Latin American heads of state organized by Washington when closing the Fourth Latin American and Caribbean Meeting held in Havana on 28 January. "They want to hold summit meetings without Cuba, to make us even more isolated, to make their criminal blockade even more rigorous," Castro said when referring to Washington's decision announced by Vice President Al Gore during a visit to Mexico.

The Cuban Government has taken part in three Ibero-American summits—Guadalajara, Mexico in 1991; Madrid, Spain in 1992; and Salvador de Bahia, Brazil in 1993.

GRANMA also charged that Argentine Foreign Minister Guido di Tella had spoken as if he were the official State Department spokesman when he said in Washington that the summit had been postponed until Secretary of State Warren Christopher completes a tour of the area.

OAS spokesmen praised the summit but warned that it should not be held without the OAS because there is no need to duplicate continental mechanisms.

One previous summit of American heads of state was held in Panama (1955) and summoned by U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower. The other was held in Punta del Este (Uruguay/1967) at the request of Lyndon B. Johnson.

The Cuban newspaper recalled statements attributed to Professor Henry Raymont, an expert in Latin American studies, who says that the United States should have summoned the summit within the framework of the OAS, from which the Fidel Castro government has been suspended since 1962.

### Raul Castro, Politburo Members Visit Guantanamo Province

*FL0402165194 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 4 Feb 94*

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] and FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces] minister, has inaugurated the nation's first center for mountain-area research and development. This center, built at a cost of over 13 million pesos, is located in the Limonar area of El Salvador Municipality, Guantanamo Province.

In a speech she made at the inauguration ceremony, Rosa Elena Simeon, member of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Cuban Academy of Sciences, emphasized that one of the center's objectives is to intensify the work aimed at increasing production of foodstuffs, both traditional and new, for human consumption. Simeon also announced that a scientific hub will be created soon in Guantanamo Province.

Raul also visited the organic plots located in Montesano. The plots are aimed at rendering the Caribe area, near the city of Guantanamo, self-sufficient in food.

Raul was accompanied by Politburo members Juan Almeida, vice president of the Council of State; General Ulises Rosales del Toro, first vice minister of the FAR and head of the general staff; Esteban Lazo and Julian Rizo, respectively PCC first secretaries in the provinces of Santiago de Cuba and Camaguey; Agriculture Minister Alfredo Jordan; Juan Carlos Robinson, member of the Central Committee and PCC first secretary in Guantanamo Province; and other leaders.

### Warns Against Illegal Departures

*PA0602202794 Paris AFP in Spanish 1807 GMT 6 Feb 94*

[Text] Havana, 6 Feb (AFP)—General Raul Castro, minister of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR) warned Cubans against any illegal immigration from the country via the U.S. Guantanamo Base (1,000 km east of Havana), and stressed that any such attempt could disturb the calm that currently prevails around the base.

"The crime of illegally leaving the country is extremely serious when the attempt is made at this border military zone," Raul Castro said.

It is a "provocation, a treacherous act against Cuban national security," and a real "crazy exploit" because of the danger of the mined zones and the presence of numerous forces, from both sides, in the "no man's land" that surrounds the base," Raul Castro said in a statement published today in JUVENTUD REBELDE, a newspaper issued by the Union of Young Communists (UJC).

"An incident occurring by chance or deliberately provoked by the enemy in the no-man's land could lead to a conflict of unpredictable proportions," he added in protest of the U.S. attitude, which according to him, encourages the illegal immigration of Cubans.

While the United States welcomes illegal Cuban immigrants with open arms, "Haitians fleeing from extreme poverty and bloody repression are stopped on the high seas and are forcefully returned to their martyred country," Raul Castro said.

"In order to contain the economic immigration of millions of Mexicans and Central Americans, the Yankees are building a tall, long fence, comparable not only to the Berlin Wall, but also to the ancient Chinese Wall," he went on.

JUVENTUD REBELDE did not specify the exact date which the defense minister, who recently toured the eastern part of the country, made that statement. The weekly did say, however, that Raul Castro issued the warning during a visit to the military hospital in Santiago de Cuba (900 km east of Havana), while visiting a young soldier who was seriously injured by a mine in early December in an effort to stop four fugitives from reaching the Guantanamo Base.

With the worsening of the economic crisis in Cuba, attempts to illegally leave the country—particularly by sea—to go to Florida (United States) have increased from the northern coasts of the archipelago and also from the Caimaneras Region, bordering the Guantanamo Base.

[Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish at 1743 GMT on 6 February reports that according to Army Gen. Raul Castro, the illegal departure from the country through the Guantanamo area, where two Armies have been deployed, is very serious and constitutes a provocation, "an act of treason against the national security of our country. [quotation marks as received]

Raul Castro, first vice president of the Council of State, accused Washington of encouraging for the past three decades the illegal immigration of Cubans, who according to him, receive exclusive and special treatment in U.S. immigration laws.

He recognized, however, that in the past year, during William Clinton's administration, there has been an atmosphere of tranquility on both sides of the U.S. military base, which occupies 117 square kilometers.

This Sunday, JUVENTUD REBELDE stated millions could be killed if the "cowboys of the unipolar world" were to fabricate an incident that served as a "pretext" to invading Cuba.

"We have the right to be tough in applying sanctions. Those who play around with sacred values cannot go unpunished," the Cuban newspaper stated.]

### Carlos Lage Meets With Brazilian Foreign Minister Amorim

*FL0402224394 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Feb 94*

[Text] Carlos Lage, vice president of the Council of State, will meet today in Brasilia with President Itamar Franco as part of his official visit to Brazil. The trip will conclude on 7 February.

On 3 February, Lage meet with Foreign Minister Celso Amorim and other personalities of the Brazilian Government. Lage's visit is receiving extensive media coverage, particularly by Rio's O GLOBO which featured an interview, with written responses to questions submitted before the trip, in which Lage discusses various issues, including Cuba's economic situation.

It was also announced that in an interview by AGENCIA BRASIL Lage pointed out that the U.S. blockade against Cuba has caused many difficulties and added that it is essential that Latin America reject this form of aggression.

A PRENSA LATINA dispatch adds that during his meeting with Lage, the Brazilian foreign minister criticized the U.S. blockade against Cuba by rejecting unilateral measures by certain countries in violation of international law.

### Lage on Meeting With Franco, U.S. Embargo on Vietnam

*FL0502025794 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Feb 94*

[Text] Cuban Vice President Carlos Lage Davila described the conversations held with Brazilian President Itamar Franco and three ministers of his cabinet as very positive. On the third day of his official visit to Brazil, Lage held a press conference with more than 20 local and foreign reporters at the residence of the Cuban ambassador to Brazil. Of his meeting with Itamar Franco, Lage said they discussed many issues related to the development of political and economic relations between the two states. Furthermore, he stated that, even though no agreements would be signed during this visit to Brazil, doors have been opened for the development of bilateral ties.

Tomorrow morning, Lage Davila and the delegation that accompanies him will travel to Rio de Janeiro, where they will hold meetings with local businessmen and political personalities.

When questioned on the lifting of the U.S. embargo on Vietnam, the Cuban leader answered that it is the result of the Asian country's perseverance in keeping alive their ideals and social system.

### Vice President Carlos Lage Arrives in Rio de Janiero

*PA0502192394 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 5 Feb 94*

[From the "Morning Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Carlos Lage, vice president of the Cuban Council of State [as heard], arrived today in Rio de Janeiro as part of the last stage of his official visit to Brazil. Shortly after arriving, Lage met with Rio de Janeiro business representatives.

During a news conference that took place shortly before leaving Brasilia, the Cuban vice president described talks with Brazilian President Itamar Franco, Foreign Minister Celso Amorim, Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso, and Health Minister Henrique Santillo as positive.

Lage remarked that during the interview with President Franco they discussed issues related to enhancing political and economic relations between Cuba and Brazil. He highlighted that the Brazilian president reiterated his criticisms of the U.S. blockade against Cuba and the so-called Torricelli Bill just as Foreign Minister Amorim had done.

The Cuban vice president explained that his country offers opportunities for foreign investments especially in the tourism sector. He also pointed out that businessmen who decide to invest in Cuba will be able to recover it in a short period of time.

### Lage Arrives in Rio de Janeiro at End of Brazilian Visit

*FL0602214194 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 6 Feb 94*

[Text] Cuban Vice President Carlos Lage today arrived in Rio de Janeiro on the last stage of his six-day official visit to Brazil.

In Brasilia last night, Lage termed very positive the talks he held with Brazilian President Itamar Franco and with the foreign, economy, and health ministers.

The Cuban vice president told the press that during his meeting with Franco they discussed matters related to the development of their countries' political and economic relations. Lage said that the Brazilian president reiterated his criticisms of the U.S. blockade against the Caribbean island and of the Torricelli law.

### Lage Meets Brizola in Rio Before Departing for Colombia

*FL0702022394 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 7 Feb 94*

[Text] In the final stage of his six-day official visit to Brazil, Cuban Vice President Carlos Lage today met with Rio de Janeiro Governor Leonel Brizola and had lunch with Roberto Marinho, president of the GLOBO NEWS AGENCY. He also met with leaders of the Workers Party and Brazilian businessmen from the tobacco and energy areas. Previously Lage had met with President Itamar Franco. Tomorrow the Cuban delegation will leave for Bogota, Colombia.

### Qatari Foreign Minister Begins Three-day Visit

*FL0502025094 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 5 Feb 94*

[Text] Qatari Foreign Minister Hamad Bin-Jasin Bin-Jabbur Al Thani today is beginning a three-day visit to Cuba. He will meet with his Cuban counterpart, Roberto Robaina, and other Cuban leaders.

Qatar, a desert peninsula of 11,000 square km, borders on Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and the Persian Gulf. Doha, the capital, groups almost half of the almost 400,000 Qataris who live on the exports of petroleum and its byproducts.

Before the discovery of oil deposits in the 1940's, the basic activities were fishing and pearl cultivation.

Qatar was under the rule of the British and the Ottoman Empire until its independence in 1971. The following year, Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani assumed power. He nationalized the oil in 1977 and has kept the 1970 provisional constitution which does not allow political parties or elections.

Despite its different system, this Arab absolute monarchy has had good diplomatic relations with Cuba since their establishment in December 1989.

### Qatari Foreign Minister, Robaina Agree on Future Embassies

*FL0702021694 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 7 Feb 94*

[Text] On the second day of his visit to Cuba, Qatari Foreign Minister Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabbur Al Thani had a day of intensive activities.

The Qatari foreign minister is visiting our country at the invitation of Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina. The two ministers today signed a document on the future opening of embassies in their respective nations.

Al Thani is heading a delegation comprising several officials from the Energy and Industry and Finance, Economy, and Trade Ministries.

### Assembly Rejects Talks With CIA 'Sponsored' Exile Groups

*FL0502122694 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Feb 94*

[Text] A communique issued by the National Assembly of the People's Government rejects as suitable spokesmen groups of Cuban exiles allegedly interested in talking with Cuban authorities but sponsored by the CIA. The document rejects, particularly, the allegedly prodialogue position of a so-called Democratic Platform abroad.

### Medical Technology Exchange Agreement Signed With Peru

*FL0402224294 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2030 GMT 4 Feb 94*

[Text] Important agreements have been signed in Peru between Cuba and Peruvian institutions. These agreements between Cuba and the social security institutes from Lima and Arequipa include the exchange of technology, professionals, and patients.

Professor Rodrigo Alvarez Cambras, director of the Cuban Orthopedics Hospital, said that he is visiting Peru at the invitation of the Peruvian Social Security Institute, and that for two weeks he toured several important towns.

Accompanied by Dr. (Luis Fleitas), a Peruvian expert, Alvarez Cambras conducted several surgeries and gave seven outstanding lectures on external pin fixation, pseudarthrosis surgery, ligaments, and bone diseases.

Alvarez Cambras said that technological and professional exchange will also take place between the two countries, in view of the fact that the two countries expressed great interest in this field.

## Dominican Republic

### Presidential Candidate Escapes Assassination Attempt

*PA0502201294 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1845 GMT 5 Feb 94*

[Text] Santo Domingo, 5 Feb (EFE)—Jose Pena Gomez, the presidential candidate of the social democratic Dominican Revolutionary Party [PRD], escaped without injuries Friday night from an attack, during which a person accompanying him, Melania Lora, received a bullet wound in her left leg.

Lora, the leader of the Education Department of the Federation of Social Democratic Women, explained today at the hospital where she was admitted that the attack took place when Pena Gomez, senate candidate Milagros Ortiz Bosch, and she were participating in a march in Maquiteria, a densely populated east Santo Domingo neighborhood. She explained that the three had been in a vehicle. When they stepped out to initiate a walk in favor of the PRD, rocks were thrown at them from the roof of a nearby building and shots were heard.

Lora affirmed that she was wounded because she was beside the presidential candidate and that the attack was directed against him.

## Haiti

### U.S. Envoy's Talks With Legislators Noted

*FL0402132594 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 3 Feb 94*

[Excerpts] American Ambassador William Lacy Swing is visiting the Senate of the Republic. The ambassador was received by the current president of the Senate, Firmin Jean-Louis. Edner Jean reports live:

[Jean] The meeting between the two men lasted about an hour. This meeting allowed Ambassador William Lacy Swing and President Firmin Jean-Louis to proceed to an assessment of the country's general situation and to the inventory of the perspectives of a solution to the crisis. Both parties expressed their common concern about the degradation of the social, economic, and political atmosphere as well as their real willingness to proceed quickly toward the resolution of the crisis. This visit by the United States ambassador in Port-au-Prince was mainly a gesture of support for Firmin Jean-Louis who is threatened with being discharged by some senators of the Alliance for Parliamentary Cohesion with the firm and determined support of those elected in the contested 18 January vote. On 2 February the resolution asking for the discharge of Firmin Jean-Louis almost made it to a vote. The ambassador insisted at length on the importance that his government gives to the legislative agenda within the scope of the Governors Island and New York accords. Furthermore, he pointed out the key role that the parliament must play in the search for a solution to the crisis and in the building of democracy in Haiti. [passage omitted]. The ambassador also answered journalists' questions regarding the conflict between the United States and France on a total blockade against Haiti. The ambassador reaffirmed that the United-States and the three other countries—the friends of Haiti—maintain a common position and demand once more the return of democracy in Haiti. [passage omitted]. The presence of Mr. Kosak [not further identified], who has just arrived from the United States, should be noted. He participated to some extent in the talks between Mr. Firmin Jean-Louis and American Ambassador William Lacy Swing. Right now, the ambassador is talking with the president of the Lower Chamber, Deputy Frantz Robert Monde.

### Pro-Aristide Group: 'U.S. Should Stop Stalling'

*FL0402224694 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 4 Feb 94*

[Text] The Fort-Saint-Clair Group [Platfom Fosenkle] opposes the 4 February demonstration demanding the lifting of international sanctions. Once again, the group demands the return of Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power in Haiti and denounces the situation prevailing at the Senate of the Republic. Firmin Jean-Louis is the Senate president and cannot be dismissed arbitrarily, according to the group calling for a return to order at the Senate.

[Begin unidentified spokesman recording, in Creole] We in the Fort-Saint-Clair Group feel very indignant at the national conference that the Committee of Actions for National Reconciliation wants to hold on 6 and 7 February. We are also opposed to all demonstrations scheduled for 4 February by the macoute sector that never works in the interest of the people in a country where human rights are not protected and where the criminals who staged the coup d'etat are using violence. This is why we in the Fort St. Clair group say first that the United States should stop stalling for time while speaking of the Governors Island and the New York pacts. We unreservedly support a demonstration to be held on 6 and 7 February by the masses and all worthy military so democracy can be established in Haiti with President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in power. [end recording]

### FRAPH on 4 Feb Demonstration: Aristide Cause of Embargo

*FL0402232794 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 4 Feb 94*

[Text] The political movement FRAPH, Revolutionary Front for the Haitian Advancement and Progress, will be in the streets of Port-au-Prince on 4 February. The leaders of the party are calling for a demonstration demanding the lifting of the embargo.

[Begin Emmanuel Constant recording, in Creole] We in FRAPH are calling for a demonstration to ask the international community to lift the embargo that is causing the Haitian people to groan. Not many Haitians know how Aristide lives abroad. He lives like a human being while we in FRAPH, who are living here, we know the sufferings that the Haitian people are facing: Food is expensive, there is no gasoline, the business sector has stopped, there is no transportation, the hospitals are closed. In a word, national life is blocked. Who is the cause of that? We say aloud: It is Aristide, who is living the good life with no thought of the sufferings of the Haitians who voted for him. Today, we are standing up and are asking for lifting the embargo because Aristide does not have a feather [as heard] in Haiti; he does not have a child. We in FRAPH are asking everyone: Who is not affected by the embargo? Therefore, everyone, come to Colon Square on 4 February at 1000 so that we can say that we are tired of the embargo; please lift it for us. [end recording]. This initiative is supported by PDCH [Haitian Christian Democratic Party], MDN [Mobilization for National Development] and PARADI [Haitian Party Of God] as well as by the Capois La Mort organization.

On the other hand, a people's organization of the Bel-Air district is against this demonstration.

## Radio Reports on 4 Feb Demonstration Against Embargo

*FL0402224194 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1800 GMT 4 Feb 94*

[Report by Jean Luckenson; passages within quotes in Creole—live]

[Text] Several rightist political groups have called for a demonstration on 4 February against the embargo ordered by the international community to promote a return to constitutional order. Alarmed by the harmful and criminal consequences of the illegal embargo imposed by the international community and Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide that is destroying the Haitian nation, those parties and socioprofessional organizations say they are staging this demonstration on 4 February to show that all social components in the Haitian nation require the immediate lifting of the embargo and the establishment of a new order in Haiti for a Haitian solution to the crisis. This solution should be worked out by the authentic representatives of the true country. In this spirit, the parties and organizations calling for this demonstration confirm their interest in and consent to the principle of holding a true national conference through which all political sectors and social strata—bar none—will be able to express themselves freely on the future of their country as soon as the embargo is lifted.

The political parties and professional groups have invited all adherents, all members, all employees in both public and private sectors, peasants, representatives of the nine departments, and all patriots in general, without distinction as to political sensitivity, to participate massively in the demonstration to begin this morning at 1000 at the Colomb Quay and proceed to the Haitian parliament and the General Headquarters of the Haitian Armed Forces in Place du Marron Inconnu.

Among the parties listed as adhering to the movement are: Democratic Movement of the Haitian Youth, of Gerard Mecklembourg; Liaison of Democratic Forces Federative Party, of Daniel Narcisse; Mobilization for National Development [of Hubert De Ronceray]; Revolutionary Front for Haitian Advancement and Progress, of Louis Jodel Chamblain and Emmanuel Constant; and PNR [expansion unknown], of Claudette Gourdet. Other parties such as the Haitian Party of God, the Haitian Christian Democratic Party, the Alliance for the Rebirth of Haiti, and unions such as the Union of Independent Drivers have joined with this demonstration movement which has already begun. Let us listen to Jean Luckenson from the streets of Port-au-Prince:

[Luckenson] "On 4 February at about 1100, hundreds of young men and women occupied the streets, demonstrating against the embargo. At the head of the demonstration is a big red-and-black flag and one guinea-fowl emblem. On the flag is written: Up with Duvalier for life. The demonstration began at the Red Cross, then went down La Saline Boulevard. The demonstrators were bearing placards on which were written such slogans as: Down with Aristide; Up with Article 149, the sole solution; and We need a revolutionary government. The demonstrators were chanting."

[Demonstrators chanting] "Down with necklacing; we must end this matter; down with necklacing; down with embargo; [words indistinct]"

[Luckenson] "We must tell you that several trucks coming from the Artibonite area, from L'Estere, Gonaives, and Saint-Marc brought people to [participate in] the demonstration. We are on the spot, we are there, we will inform you at the appropriate moment. This was Jean Luckenson from downtown Port-au-Prince for Signal FM Radio."

## Deputies President Comments on Visit by U.S. Ambassador

*FL0402234194 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 4 Feb 94*

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] To kill two birds with one stone, the U.S. ambassador went to the lower chamber to meet with the new president of the Chamber of Deputies. However, they did not reach the common position that was the case at the upper chamber, because William L. Swing and Frantz Robert Monde expressed differing points of view on the Haitian crisis and the measures adopted by the international community. President Monde, once more, called on the Americans for more humaneness toward Haiti and solicited the lifting of the embargo:

[Begin recording] [Monde] It is the richest country in the world, the most prosperous, the most powerful that is imposing economic sanctions on the weakest, poorest one on earth. We asked him to ask the international community to view the crisis on a more humane angle—the unfairness, the human aspect of the embargo—the solution to the crisis in order to avoid a social explosion, according to critics of the policy of the international community which is adhering to the Governors Island accord.

[Reporter] What was the ambassador's answer?

[Monde] The same: It is not our fault; it is the military's fault. However, they did not realize that their approach to the crisis was greatly biased, which explains the fact that they have personalized the crisis as between two men, making a solution very difficult. [end recording]

This visit by the U.S. ambassador comes at a time when the Chamber of Deputies has basically resumed normal operations, while the Senate of the Republic is heading for a new rupture that is becoming more and more imminent. [end recording]

## Dupiton: Senate President Agent of International Community

*FL0502000494 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 4 Feb 94*

[Text] Some senators from the Alliance for Parliamentary Cohesion interpreted the meeting between U.S. Ambassador Swing and Senate President Firmin Jean-Louis as a threat against national sovereignty. Thomas Eddy Dupiton is demanding the discharge of President Firmin Jean-Louis, whom he accuses of being an agent of the international community:

[Begin recording, in Creole] We see that Firmin Jean-Louis, as I told you yesterday, is at the service of the international [community]. They had to come and give him instructions. But the instructions that he receives—it is not the Senate of the Republic that would execute them. Those are instructions for Firmin and all the hired hands of his ilk. What do you see happening today? Firmin is taking orders from foreigners. He has blocked the Senate of the Republic since he ratified Malval.

When Firmin has the entire international [community] behind him, the office that the country would have supported—that all men of good faith would have supported—this office would be accepted and would be imposed on those who still stand up in this country, those who do not crawl and who do not take their orders from foreigners. [end recording]

These statements were made on 3 February by Senator Thomas Eddy Dupiton in reaction to the visit of U.S. Ambassador William L. Swing to the Senate of the Republic.

## Christian Democrat Leader Opposed to Demonstrations

*FL0502145694 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 4 Feb 94*

[Text] Christian Democratic Assembly [RDC] leader Eddy Volel opposes the demonstration scheduled for 4 February. According to Volel, some sectors have the right to demonstrate in the streets whereas others do not.

[Begin Volel recording, in Creole] There is a sector that is struggling for democracy, but that does not have the right to speak, even less does it have the right to stage demonstrations or to hold meetings. We in the RDC are always against this stance that favors a person or a group of persons to the detriment of another person or group of persons. We could never offer our support, we never offered our support, and we will never offer our support to anything done against the interests of the people. So, we do not offer our support: We oppose this demonstration. We are against this disorder because those people, who are staging the demonstration, have never done anything for the Haitian people. On the contrary, they have always tried to destroy the people, to destroy the country. [end rcording]

## Defense Secretariat Denies Air Force Bombed in Chiapas

*PA0402141194 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2105 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[Text] Mexico City, 2 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Military authorities have said there were no "bombings" in the confrontation with the armed group in the Mexican southeastern state of Chiapas, and they rejected media reports alluding to such alleged actions.

The National Defense Secretariat stated: "The reported 'bombings' never took place, and the proof of this is that there is not any evidence of such actions" in the conflict area. The Secretariat pointed out that the effects of aerial bombs cannot be hidden because of the degree of destruction they would cause on any type of terrain, "particularly in populated areas."

Military authorities assigned to the conflict zone have taken journalists to places where, according to media reports, the Air Force had "bombed the civilian population," and the journalists were able to confirm that nothing of that sort had occurred.

In a communique, the Secretariat discussed the actions conducted by the Air Force during the confrontation with the armed group. All military actions were suspended entirely on 12 January following the cease-fire ordered by President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

The Secretariat indicated that the Air Force's planes and helicopters carried out reconnaissance and meteorological flights, transportation of personnel, and shipment of provisions to soldiers and civilians, in addition to rescue and evacuation operations in isolated areas. The Secretariat also noted that the Air Force provided "direct support to soldiers in unpopulated areas by opening machine-gun fire and by firing rockets in efforts to combat pincer and ambush operations" set up by the armed group against military personnel.

Military authorities indicated that by reiterating these statements issued on 11 January, they seek to reject any references to presumed "bombings" and "heavy activity by military airplanes."

The communique stated that: "With these statements, the National Defense Secretariat rejects categorically and strongly the occurrence of any 'bombings' in the Chiapas conflict, attacks in populated areas or attempts to damage personal property."

The situation in the conflict area has become relatively calm and favorable because a direct dialogue appears "imminent" between Chiapas Peace Commissioner Manuel Camacho Solis and the so-called Zapatist National Liberation Army, which began the conflict on 1 January.

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## Judge Advocate General Investigates Complaints Against Army

*PA0402195694 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 4 Feb 94*

[Report by Gerardo Segura; from the "Good Morning From Mexico" newscast; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Brigadier General Mario Guillermo Fromow, National Defense Secretariat judge advocate general, stated he is investigating complaints of two alleged executions by the Army in Ocosingo, Chiapas State.

[Fromow] "When soldiers succeeded in liberating Ocosingo Square they found a number of corpses covered with blood, but they had been killed some time earlier. Two of them do appear to have been shot in the head with a small caliber firearm. It is not the type of firearm the Army uses. Others had wounds caused by rifles. The Army does not use those either. In sum, we are investigating that."

He said action will be taken if soldiers are found responsible.

[Fromow] "We will proceed immediately against anyone, no matter who it is, if he belongs to the Army. I can tell you this is an act of violence against people, nothing less than homicide."

The judge advocate general stated that his office handles the complaints filed by the National Human Rights Committee [CNDH].

[Fromow] "In Chiapas' case, this office has received 25 complaints. I am already responding with full information to the CNDH so it can have the elements and judge whether or not the rights of a citizen were violated or the law was broken."

During an interview with Television Azteca, Gen. Fromow talked about the attitude of some servicemen and their involvement with the complaints that have been filed.

[Fromow] "Generally these cases involve the arrests of certain people by soldiers. That is not far from the truth. They were arrested, but they were immediately handed over to regular or federal authorities with medical certificates attesting to their physical well-being." The Army carried out no bombings in the Chiapas conflict, the judge advocate general stated.

*[Fromow] "One cannot even imagine that the Army* bombed towns. First, not a single bomb was used, because it was not necessary. We are not going to get to that point either. The Army has strafed those individuals who conducted attacks." In sum, he said, we are seeking peace, because servicemen have suffered in the conflict. The Army has sustained casualties, and soldiers are risking their lives.

[Fromow] "More than anything else, the Army wants peace and tranquillity. It wants peace the most, because soldiers know the consequences of these incidents; they know they are losing or risking their lives."

### Development Secretary, Chiapas Governor Sign Agreement

*PA0402165894 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 3 Feb 94*

[From the "Good Morning From Mexico" newscast]

[Text] Social Development Secretary Carlos Rojas Gutierrez and Chiapas State Governor Javier Lopez Moreno have signed the 1994 social development agreement. The document establishes that 750 million new pesos will be assigned to the development of social projects in that state.

During the ceremony, the social development secretary said that the public projects and investments that have been carried out are not enough because the situation in the state is the product of centuries of backwardness. This is why it is necessary to respect the decisions of the community and to listen to and heed their proposals and their truth, he said.

Javier Lopez Moreno said that efforts to integrate a political coalition government will continue because this is what the current situation demands.

At the end of the ceremony, the officials went to Comitan, Chiapas, where they inaugurated one of the 16 health centers that will function in the state for peasants and Indians.

### Peace Commissioner Says No Date Set for Talks With EZLN

*PA0402145994 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 4 Feb 94*

[From the "Good Morning From Mexico" newscast]

[Text] Manuel Camacho Solis, commissioner for peace and reconciliation in Chiapas, has said in Mexico City that no date has been set to begin the talks with the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN]. In a communique, he noted that he has yet to receive a firm notification concerning the place and date of the meeting. He insisted that written communication between the EZLN and the peace commissioner is the only valid source of notification, adding that, because of the importance of the meeting, it is imperative to maintain a single source of notification. In this way, he was denying reports that the dialogue would take place on Saturday [5 February]. Here is a report from Jaime Guerrero:

[Begin recording] [Guerrero] Chiapas and its images of war have been viewed around the world, and nobody wants this to happen again. Reports indicate the peace process in the country's poorest state is clearly advancing toward reconciliation. On Thursday, Camacho Solis left Los Pinos Presidential Residence after meeting with President Carlos Salinas de Gortari for 90 minutes.

Although the two sides have yet to sit down at the bargaining table, Camacho has been in contact with the Zapatists for a month. He told reporters that he believes the EZLN has assumed a responsible attitude.

[Camacho] This is why we have been able to advance in the peace process. I also want to say—indeed, I think this is an important point—that I found a responsible attitude on the part of the EZLN. With each and every message, we have received a corresponding response.

[Guerrero] When asked about the interventionist attitude of U.S. Congressman Robert Torricelli and his virtual impact on the negotiations, Camacho replied:

[Camacho] This is a matter we, the Mexican people, are going to resolve. That is the position of the EZLN and the government. This is the position of all political forces.

[Guerrero] And so, the process continues. Camacho Solis said there have been private communications on several points, including the one dealing with General Absalom Castellanos. The peace commissioner told the press that until now he has not made a statement that has not been in line with the facts. He showed an optimistic outlook, but he warned there is still a risk that the talks with the EZLN will reach an impasse—a situation that would bring about negative consequences. [end recording]

### Says Dialogue Can Begin

*PA0502153594 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0435 GMT 5 Feb 94*

[Statement by Manuel Camacho Solis, commissioner for peace and reconciliation in Chiapas; in San Cristobal de las Cases, Chiapas State on 4 February; from the "24 Hours" newscast—recorded]

[Text] Good evening. This is the public communique I am sending to the command of the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN]:

The de facto strategy, including messages, has yielded fruits. Written communication, both public and confidential, has been serious and has contributed to maintaining the cease-fire and the gradual return to calm in the region.

I have received your confidential communication on holding meetings for peace and reconciliation. I agree with your proposal. In a confidential document I am answering your questions on the final details.

The dialogue can begin:

1. The meeting will proceed based on the agenda we have mutually accepted. I will listen to your points of view on other issues of interest, knowing that national issues will not be included in the resolutions.

2. Regarding the International Red Cross, I inform you that the participation of this institution is based on the terms of the formal request the International Red Cross made to the Mexican Government. The position of the Mexican Government and this institution is that the activities of the International Red Cross in Mexico should be restricted to its strictly humanitarian purpose and that they should not represent meddling in the domestic affairs of the Mexican state.

3. The objective is an honorable peace. We have started from the principle that peace must be secured while safeguarding the full sovereignty of the Mexican people. All of us—Congress, the political parties, society, the government, and the churches—have spoken in favor of a national solution to a Mexican problem. There is no need for internationalizing this conflict. We will have neutral space and offer the guarantees you demand in your confidential document.

4. My tasks are clear: to propose to the government, based on what you tell me, measures aimed at resolving, without gaps, the situation. This is what I have been doing. I also have the task of keeping the people informed and creating an awareness in society that together with a solution to your demands should contribute to the construction of peace.

5. The purpose of the dialogue is to find solutions. All of us, as Mexicans who enjoy equal rights, can propose solutions. This way we can make progress on the most difficult aspect of all negotiations. We can create a framework of respect that will facilitate the peace process.

I realize that needs that have been built-up for decades cannot be resolved overnight, but I also know that progress can be made by making big and honest efforts. We will march forward as fast as you are ready to march.

6. I know that solutions to this conflict are complex, that this is not a matter of simply increasing investments or programs but of generating, with your participation, economic, political, and social solutions that will allow the establishment of a new relationship between the authorities and the communities.

I am certain that the Indian communities you represent that form part of the EZLN require a new kind of relationship with the institutions of Chiapas and Mexican society.

The Mexican nation has the strength of its intrinsic diversity and cultural wealth. My starting point is: respect for the dignity of the Indian communities.

Thank you very much. You are very kind.

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## Zapatist Commander Warns Government

*PA0502185394 Paris AFP in Spanish 1655 GMT 5 Jan 94*

[Text] Mexico City, 5 Feb (AFP)—"Subcommander Marcos," the military strategist of the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN] rebels who took up arms on 1 January, warned during an interview published today by the local daily LA JORNADA that if the Mexican Government isolates the guerrillas politically, there will be "carnage."

At a meeting with a group of journalists in an unidentified region of the Lacandona Jungle, in southern Mexico, Marcos spoke about the reasons for the uprising, the imminent dialogue with the government, and the issues on which there is no agreement. Marcos said that "there is the risk of the government politically isolating us at the national level. Obviously, this would lead to a renewal of the military option." He noted that "the next time there will be a great deal of carnage because we are not going to perish alone, and we are not going to move to another place."

Marcos said that the EZLN has agreed to negotiations (that could begin in the next few hours) because "we owe it not to the government or Manuel Camacho (commissioner for peace and reconciliation) but to the civilian society. We want to sit down and talk with civilian society."

Recalling a passage of the Mexican conquest, he insisted that "if the government succeeds in isolating us," the guerrillas "prefer to jump into the river than to surrender their weapons." The subcommander, who approached reporters escorted by armed Indians and wearing a military uniform, his already traditional "sky mask," and a black poncho, noted that "the total annihilation of our forces is improbable. It is in fact impossible."

Regarding the dialogue, for which no date or place has been set, Marcos said: "We are thinking about holding it in the city." He added that "we don't want to hold it in the jungle" because "here we cannot guarantee the security" of Camacho or guerrilla mediator Bishop Samuel Ruiz.

Marcos said that the negotiations must take place "in a place where they (the government) will feel obligated to act properly." He did not discard the possibility of holding talks in the Mexican capital.

Regarding the dialogue, Marcos said that the EZLN "has forced" the government to engage in negotiations. However, commenting on the official refusal to discuss national political issues, Marcos said he has doubts about the possibility of the government complying with an agreement. Marcos said that "it is not right for Camacho to say that he is not going to negotiate national policies with an armed group. The government is washing its hands before reaching an agreement, and if there is an agreement, it would not comply with it."

Marcos noted that the government "does not want to discuss issues over which there is consensus." He added that there is no "democratic room in the nation" in which the Indians participate. He explained that "it is wrong to think that our problems will be resolved at the state (Chiapas) level." He added that "we know that this can only be fixed if there are changes higher up. Now," he analogized, "they are changing the tree's leaves, but the tree's roots are rotten."

He went on to say that "the predicament is not whether to have peace with democracy. As we see it, the matter is to either have peace or war with dignity."

Marcos criticized the official decision to recognize the EZLN as "a political force in formation," and not as a belligerent force, as his organization had demanded. He said that "it now happens that the Indians are no longer children but adults in formation," although "they will continue treating us like little children."

### EZLN Allows Journalists, Red Cross To Enter Town

*PA0502195394 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1530 GMT 5 Feb 94*

[Report by Freddy Martin Perez]

[Text] Guadalupe Tepeyac, Mexico, 5 Feb (NOTIMEX)—The self-styled Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN] allowed 17 journalists into this area in observance of the agreement with Manuel Camacho Solis, commissioner for peace and reconciliation in Chiapas State.

The caravan of journalists was received by some 150 inhabitants in downtown Guadalupe de Tepeyac, a village in Chiapas State in southeastern Mexico. Local resident Manuel Jimenez Santis said that residents are hopeful that hostilities will end. The EZLN accepted Camacho Solis' proposal to create two "free zones" or neutral areas in San Miguel and Guadalupe Tepeyac and on 2 February ordered its followers to withdraw from both areas.

The peace commissioner's proposal stipulates that once the two "free zones" are created, the International Red Cross will begin humanitarian aid and support operations for the civilian population in these two places. Jimenez Santis said that several dozen Lacandona jungle inhabitants have transferred their sick for medical attention in response to the announced arrival within the next few hours of International Red Cross members.

Jimenez Santis summoned Manuel Camacho Solis, commissioner for peace and reconciliation in Chiapas State, to come and learn the communities' most urgent needs. "We peasants have no land, no work, we have no good food, housing, education, or health care. What we want now is peace," Jimenez Sanits said.

NOTIMEX toured several communities and was able to verify that food and medicines had become scarce, while here in Guadalupe Tepeyac, where about 160 [as published] inhabitants live, the Solidarity Hospital was unharmed by the conflict.

The Mexican Government and the EZLN have maintained a cease-fire since 12 January following armed clashes that began on 1 January and left, according to official reports, about 100 persons dead. Maria Gomez Hernandez, a housewife, said milk, sugar, rice, flour, oil, and other basic staples are urgently needed. She requested that Camacho Solis visit the area to work within the peace process in communities isolated by the conflict.

Possibilities increased this weekend for the first direct talks between the EZLN and the peace commissioner. "The dialogue may start," Camacho Solis said when announcing last night that both sides agreed on the discussion agenda after the EZLN proposed on Friday to include the topic of "national political life" without seeking agreements on this point.

In a message broadcast from San Cristobal de las Casas, 1,200 km southeast of Mexico City, Camacho Solis said that the contents for the direct dialogue "is the agenda on which we have mutually agreed."

### Press Claims Presence of Armed Groups in Guerrero State

*PA0602023594 Paris AFP in Spanish 1846 GMT 3 Feb 94*

[Report by Luis Granovsky]

[Text] Acapulco, Mexico, 3 Feb (AFP)—Despite official denials regarding an eventual presence of subversive groups in Guerrero State, Mexico, the country's press has continued to insist "the existence of armed groups that invite the population to join the guerrillas is a widely known secret," as the daily NOVEDADES proclaimed today.

Under the headline "Subversion Is Promoted in the Costa Chica Region," the newspaper published on its front page a map of the "area with a possible guerrilla presence" and quotes statements from a police commissioner, a bilingual teacher, and other witnesses who have informed the authorities of the presence of armed individuals in the area.

The Acapulco newspaper EL SOL, on the Pacific Coast, had written on 2 February that there are military training camps, that more than 20,000 AK-47 assault rifles had entered the state over the last few weeks, and that there is a "red alert" in the state due to the danger of "a new guerrilla front, similar to the one in Chiapas State."

There was a guerrilla uprising in the southern State of Chiapas on 1 January, and for weeks national newspapers and magazines have been insisting that in the mountain and forest areas of Guerrero State there are armed groups, in addition an intense police mobilization to search for them.

Jose Ruben Robles, Guerrero State government secretary, said on 22 February the information published by EL SOL reflects a "lack of responsibility and little professionalism," because "no subversive groups have been found, much less any military training camps."

The newspaper also quoted an official document, existence of which the government has denied, but EL SOL Director Eloisa Lopez has confirmed to AFP that it exists and that she has a copy.

NOVEDADES' envoy to the area has described such cases, however, as that of Huehuetonoc, where the bilingual teacher has reported that armed individuals, with beige uniforms, had invited the Indian population to join the guerrilla movement. This was also denounced by the town's police commissioner.

It has also mentioned the arrest of a retired police sergeant who was bearing "prohibited weapons" and who had allegedly confessed to forming part of a group of eight people armed with AK-47 assault rifles and M-1 carbines and members of a "town police."

The government does not deny the presence of armed groups but identifies them as crooks, criminals, or kidnappers, not as subversives.

In Guerrero State there was, in the early 1970's, a guerrilla uprising that the Army annihilated quickly.

It is recognized that in the region there are many groups of drug traffickers that have already clashed several times with the Army, which is fighting them, and even amongst themselves for control of the exit routes of the marijuana grown in the mountains.

There have also been dozens of kidnapings, mostly of wealthy landlords who have had to pay large amounts of money to be freed.

The only point on which the different versions agree is that there are many weapons circulating in Guerrero State: the disagreements regard who has them and for what they use them. Meanwhile, there is a psychosis of possible clashes in many towns in the state.

## EZLN Asks Nongovernment Organizations For 'Peace Cordon'

*PA0602154594 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0618 GMT 6 Feb 94*

[Text] San Cristobal de Las Casas, 5 Feb (NOTIMEX)—The Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN) has asked Mexican nongovernmental organizations to create a "peace cordon [cinturon de paz] to avoid pressure, intimidation, or even attacks" by the parties involved in conflict.

In a communique dated 1 February and released in this southeastern Mexican city on Saturday [5 February], it was noted that the request was made in view of the imminent start of peace talks between Peace and Reconciliation Commissioner Manuel Camacho Solis and the EZLN. The fact that the dialogue could be held within a conflict zone would entail risks of provocation that could obstruct or bog down the dialogue.

"With the goal of reducing undesirable tensions to a minimum between the parties involved, a security or peace cordon should be formed around the dialogue site to avoid pressure, intimidation, or even attacks by one of the parties involved in the conflict against the other."

Meanwhile, Peace Commissioner Manuel Camacho Solis said here today that the direct talks with the EZLN "will be held very soon," and he added that "everything is set and there are no problems in holding the meeting."

After meeting with Samuel Ruiz, bishop of San Cristobal de Las Casas—the link between the armed group and the commissioner—Camacho said "we will come out ahead" in efforts to find a peaceful solution in Chiapas. Buffer zones were created to hold the meetings in the area of Los Altos de Chiapas at the request of Camacho Solis. This request was accepted by the armed group on Thursday. The towns of San Miguel and Guadalupe Tepeyac, in north central and southeastern Chiapas, respectively, were proposed as the two areas that will remain free of any armed presence and where the International Red Cross would provide assistance to the civilian population.

Camacho Solis explained this idea is intended "to create areas of detente" to support the population that has been adversely affected by the conflict. The armed group added that it would withdraw its men from San Miguel and Guadalupe Tepeyac when the International Red Cross installs its camps to provide the humanitarian aid.

On Saturday, the International Red Cross Committee announced it would restore medical services in certain areas of Chiapas and would organize a program to supervise the health centers run by Mexican personnel. According to the plan, the International Red Cross will only provide humanitarian aid to the civilian population and medical treatment to all, including the transportation of patients to hospitals in Chiapas or anywhere else in the country as required.

Another action that contributed to the progress of the peace process was the EZLN's sending of a communique to Bishop Ruiz. In the communique, the rebels announced they would "shortly" release former Chiapas State Governor Absalon Castellanos Dominguez, who was kidnapped on 2 January.

In another communique addressed to the Executive Coordinating Commission of the State Council of Indian and Peasant Organizations, the EZLN said those Zapatists who "had verbally assaulted local residents who did not support our struggle have been reprimanded."

This communique added: "Neither physical nor verbal threats to force anyone to join our struggle will be tolerated from our troops and supporters. Our war laws are very clear in this regard, and we have already taken action to correct the damage done and to prevent the problem from recurring."

### 'Security Cordon' Accepted

*PA0702003594 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2141 GMT 6 Feb 94*

[Text] San Cristobal de las Casas, 6 Feb (Notimex)—Today the nongovernment organizations (NGO'S) accepted a proposal to create a security cordon around negotiations between government and Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN) representatives.

Yesterday, Saturday, the armed group requested that in light of an imminent dialogue between Manuel Camacho Solis, commissioner for peace and reconciliation in Chiapas, and the EZLN, the NGO'S could lay out a security cordon which would prevent both sides from interfering in the physical space of the dialogue table.

Gerardo Gonzalez, spokesman for the Coordinating Board of Nongovernment Human Rights Organizations (CONPAZ) in this city, indicated this group's interest in also becoming a permanent observer of the Chiapas peace process. He added that the security cordon would be implemented either on foot or by using vehicles operated by CONPAZ members, the Red Cross, the Health Secretariat, and nongovernment human rights organizations which will cover the area where the talks will take place. The CONPAZ representative indicated that the objective is to observe all movements of troops and aircraft, as well as national and international correspondents sent to cover the dialogue. He added that this will serve to prevent any irregularities which may affect the first rapprochement to ensure peace and reestablish legal order in the region.

"(Today) we expect to deliver the EZLN acceptance letter to [Monsignor] Samuel Ruiz, bishop of San Cristobal de Las Casas dioceses and national mediation commissioner, as well as to Camacho Solis." He mentioned that the letter was sent to all representatives of the 130 nongovernment organizations in the country inviting their representatives to participate in implementing the security cordon in order to ensure the dialogue.

Gonzalez believes the communities of San Miguel, the municipality of Ocosingo, and the city of Comitan are ideal sites for the talks aimed at setting the foundations of a true reconciliation between Chiapas inhabitants and state and federal authorities.

The spokesman for CONPAZ, an organization which consists of approximately 11 local groups, was interviewed at the conclusion of a citizen's march for peace and reconciliation that ended with a meeting in this community's central plaza.

As of the start of the negotiation process between the peace commissioner and the EZLN, under the mediation of Bishop Ruiz, both sides have agreed to initiate a dialogue based on a prearranged agenda. The dialogue is aimed at solving the Chiapas Indian community problem.

Beginning on 1 January the EZLN staged an uprising in four communities of the State of Chiapas, southeastern Mexico, and presented demands for Indian grievances.

It is expected that this Sunday Camacho Solis will announce the date and place where the first direct talks will take place.

### EZLN To Propose 'Autonomous Region'

*PA0602223494 Paris AFP in Spanish 1833 GMT 6 Feb 94*

[Text] Mexico City, 6 Feb (AFP)— In an interview published by the local newspaper LA JORNADA, Zapatist rebel leader "Marcos" said the Mexican guerrillas intend to negotiate an "autonomy law" for Indians and discuss "the agrarian topic."

In the interview conducted in the mountains of southeastern Mexico, the military strategist of the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN) said the rebels do not intend to take over power with weapons, which they have obtained "without foreign support." He said the main "detonator" of the 1 January Chiapas uprising was the land problem and, especially, reforms to Article 27 of the Constitution, by which the government of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari limited the existence of ejidos [a form of land tenure] in the area inhabited by more than 1 million Indians.

"These reforms canceled all legal possibilities of having access to land," and they "closed the door on Indians surviving in a legal and peaceful manner," according to "Marcos." He added that "the agrarian problem should once again be discussed." Salinas' reforms should be eliminated as "a first step in opening wider discussions aimed at keeping the countryside in mind."

He added that during the dialogue with the government, the date and place of which has still not been decided, the EZLN will call for the establishment of an "autonomous region similar to what the Basques or Catalans have [in Spain]" in order to attenuate the Indian communities' "distrust" toward the government. "We must negotiate an autonomy statute where our government and our administrative structure will be acknowledged by the Mexican government and we may live together without anyone interfering with us," "Marcos" asserted.

After denying that the Chiapas Catholic Church had supported the guerrillas ("there was not even consent"), the rebel leader stated that the "Zapatist thunder of thousands" of Indians came after the "failure" of legal mechanisms to guarantee participation, self-government, and food self-sufficiency in the region. "If the Indians decided to organize cooperatives, right away they were lambasted. If they decided to organize to demand land, they were rejected. If they organize to take over land by force, they are killed. They have no health facilities; they are dying," he commented.

Although he denied that the Zapatists intend to take over power by force, the guerrilla leader did say that the EZLN does favor "a national revolutionary movement" and that their demands "are nation-wide [nacionales]."

With respect to the origins of the weapons under guerrilla control and reports that they had been training for the past ten years, he indicated that the weapons were obtained by "stockpiling bit by bit"—"black market" weapons seized by the police from drug traffickers, weapons taken from the "white guards [guardias blancas]" (paramilitary) working for the region's farm owners, and rudimentary hunting weapons used by the peasants.

"Marcos," whom reporters describe as a 40-year-old mestizo pointed out that the weapons in the hands of the EZLN consist of (Russian manufactured) AK-47 and (U.S. made) M-16 rifles, German UZI machine-guns, as well as lower caliber hunting rifles. He also added that the EZLN "originated as a self-defense group."

The rebel leader, whose identity is still not known, said he is a "by-product" of the 1968 Mexican student movement and "everything else that came afterwards, mainly election fraud." He did not specify when he decided to go to the southeastern mountains but did indicate that he takes orders from an Indian group that makes up the EZLN "General Command." "Marcos" added that he became "subcommander" only after being a junior lieutenant, lieutenant, second captain, and then first captain.

## Radio Station Reports Explosions at Pemex Site

*PA0502222594 Paris AFP in Spanish 2049 GMT 5 Feb 94*

[Text] Mexico City, 5 Feb (AFP)—The private radio station Radio Red reported this Saturday that there were two explosions this morning at installations of the state-owned enterprise Mexican Petroleum (Pemex) in the southern State of Tabasco.

In a report from its correspondent in Villa Hermosa, 660 km southeast of this capital, the radio station reported the explosions took place at the Pemex installations named Gregorio Mendez and Santa Isabel near that city.

The explosions, the radio station added, occurred at approximately 0700 GMT and caused large fires at the site. Several ambulances were sent there.

The radio station stated it is yet unknown whether there are victims, but there is great concern, because several communities are located in areas near the site of the explosions.

### At Least 15 Wounded; 800 Evacuated

*PA0602010794 Paris AFP in Spanish 2327 GMT 5 Feb 94*

[Text] Villahermosa, Mexico, 5 Feb (AFP)—At least 15 people were wounded while 800 were evacuated this Saturday from Gregorio Mendez, a hamlet in the southern State of Tabasco, as the result of a strong explosion at a state-run Mexican Petroleum [Pemex] plant, a Red Cross spokesman has told AFP.

The spokesman has said the explosion, the cause of which is still unknown, occurred after noon and caused a large fire at the site, located in the Cunduacan region, near this city.

So far, the spokesman added, there are 15 wounded but no fatalities from the catastrophe, which reportedly had spread to another Pemex installation in the bordering town of Santa Isabel.

The Red Cross had mobilized to the site 12 ambulances—which were "all that were available" in the area—and coordinated the "rescue operation" of the individuals who were affected by the fire, the spokesman said.

He said the catastrophe was already under control and that the wounded had been moved to Pemex's hospital in that area.

Tabasco government and fire department sources of that city also said they ignored the elements that caused the explosion at the petroleum installations.

Tabasco State, 660 km southeast of this capital, borders Chiapas State, where on 1 January an Indian rebellion broke out against the government, which still has been unable to establish a dialogue with the rebels.

### 10 Killed; 20 Seriously Wounded

*PA0602025394 Paris AFP in Spanish 0128 GMT 6 Feb 94*

[Text] Mexico City, 5 Feb (AFP)—The private radio station Radio Red has released a first account of the explosion on Saturday afternoon at a state-owned Mexican Petroleum (Pemex) plant in the southern State of Tabasco. The explosion killed at least 10 people, and 20 were seriously wounded.

The causes of the explosion at the Ninive Plant of the oil company and a fire between the towns of Gregorio Mendez and Rancho Nuevo, Cunduacan Municipality, approximately 660 km southeast of this capital, are still unknown, the radio station reported, adding that one of the plant's internal pipelines is what exploded.

So far 10 people are known dead, four of who were passing in front of the Pemex installations in a particular vehicle, inside which "they were carbonized."

The other six dead were workers of the enterprise who formed part of a team of 26 workers who were working at the site at the time of the explosion. The remaining 20 are seriously wounded, the radio station reported.

The area Red Cross has confirmed to AFP some of the wounded were taken to Pemex's hospital located near the oil plant, others to medical centers located in the city of Villahermoza, capital of Tabasco State.

The gas pipeline explosion occurred in a 200-meter stretch and left a crater seven meters deep, the radio station reported, adding that "more than 100 trees were blown down" by the concussion of the blast.

Firemen controlled the resulting fire, although it prompted the immediate evacuation, by the Red Cross, of at least 800 people who inhabit the town of Gregorio Mendez.

Pemex personnel were trying in the afternoon to prevent contact between gas and crude oil circulating in the different petroleum pipelines in the area by injecting water into the plants near the Ninive Plant, where there are several ejidos (communal lands).

Radio Red stated Pemex concentrates most of its drilling and production activities in the Cunduacan area, where there is a vast oil-drilling infrastructure.

### Pemex Denies Reports on Deaths

*PA0602231594 Paris AFP in Spanish 2022 GMT 6 Feb 94*

[Text] Villahermosa, 6 Feb (AFP)—According to a report disclosed to AFP today by Mexican Petroleum (Pemex) spokesman Mario Martinez, authorities of the state-owned corporation are investigating the causes of an explosion that occurred on Saturday at a gas pipeline located in the southern State of Tabasco. At the same time, the Pemex spokesman denied that the explosion had resulted in several casualties.

Martinez denied reports disclosed on Saturday by Radio Red, a Mexico City radio station, on at least 10 persons having died and 20 others having been wounded as result of the explosion and fire at a pipeline located in the municipality of Cunduacan, near Villahermosa, 600 km southeast of Mexico City. "There were no fatalities," the Pemex spokesman emphasized, and indicated that only nine persons were injured as a result of burns, including Pemex workers and residents of the communities of Gregorio Mendez and Ranch Nuevo, both which are near the area.

Martinez pointed out that the explosion took place at a gas pipeline connected to the petroleum installation known as Iride. He added that the cause of the explosion is "still being investigated," starting first by cleaning up the area and then examining materials through laboratory analysis. Pemex technicians and specialists from the Attorney General's Office [PGR] are investigating the explosion and fire which resulted in damages to an area measuring approximately 300 meters, mainly to trees and pastures, he specified.

A Red Cross spokesperson told AFP on Saturday that the disaster prompted the evacuation of at least 800 persons living in the nearby communities whom, according to Mario Martinez, "have already returned to their homes." He stipulated that Pemex is also investigating damages to nearby properties. Pemex will compensate the owners for any damaged property.

The Pemex spokesman acknowledged that the Iride installation lacked "adequate attention to normal maintenance procedures," but attributed this to the fact that peasants in the area "have blocked entry" to the site by staging constant "protests for alleged damages" caused by the petroleum plant. "These installations have been blocked from the first months of 1993 to date by persons unjustly demanding compensation for alleged damages," Pemex indicated.

Residents of the region of Cunduacan where Pemex concentrates a vast petroleum drilling and production infrastructure have complained about damage caused by the state-owned company which they accuse of polluting the area in which they live.

## Costa Rica

### Paper Analyzes Leading Parties' 'Propaganda'

*PA0402154494 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 26 Jan 94 pp 4A, 5A*

[Report by Mauricio Martinez S.]

[Text] A fierce battle is being fought by the two sides, which remain scoreless with only 10 minutes remaining in the game, and they zealously seek the weapon that will allow them to gain the final victory.

Upon their return from the Christmas truce, the National Liberation Party (PLN) and Social Christian Unity Party (PUSC) are in the home stretch, aware of the close [poll] results and difficult battle they face. Their propaganda strategies to achieve this differ and in the case of the Social Democrats, perhaps, is more reactive.

The Social Christians, who announced a strong campaign against PLN candidate Jose Maria Figueres since late 1993, have fulfilled their pledge. They renewed reports about the opposition leader's alleged involvement in certain irregularities and, in certain cases, they revealed some new ones.

The PLN launched a campaign under the slogan "The Safe Way," based on promises of social welfare and the party's principles. However, the ruling party's harassment reportedly provoked a drastic change in the PLN's preliminary strategy.

This is gleaned from a propaganda analysis prepared for this newspaper by specialists Victor Flury, Victor Ramirez, and Jose Alberto Ramirez. The analysis covered the period 2-10 January and studied 23 different ads in newspapers and 35 television spots. This is the sixth report on political propaganda, and the experts have added their reviews of other issues, including public speeches, debates, and polls.

Referring to the last three weeks, the analysts predict the PUSC will continue to attack Figueres; it will strengthen some campaign promises; and it will give a triumphant-reflexive feeling to its messages.

PLN members, they predict, will continue to proclaim the party's victory, extol the polls which give them the advantage, and exert themselves to deal a psychological-political blow: Former President Oscar Arias' eventual participation in proselytization activities.

Flury, Ramirez, and Rodriguez believe the resumption of the electoral battle in January provoked a national debate on whether the parties were carrying out a dirty campaign (mutual accusations) or a confrontation of ideas.

According to predictions included in the previous report, which was published on 29 December, the PUSC attacked Figueres with strong moral and business charges. Moral issues involving the candidate's actions prevailed. Hence the slogan "Careful with Figueres Olsen, there are problems wherever he goes." This was followed by messages on Figueres' recent involvement, according to the Attorney General's Office, in a possible embezzlement with bonds and mines, as well as the removal of seven Telenews journalists from Channel 7, reportedly a result of pressure exerted by PLN leaders.

According to the three professionals' analysis, PLN reportedly reviewed two scenarios in December to counter the ruling party's attacks:

A) Launch a January campaign reviewing ideas and programs, but—given the PUSC's onslaught—argue they had no other choice but to launch a counterattack.

B) Opt for a positive campaign because party leaders figure the people are tired of attacks. Nevertheless, given the strength of the Social Christians' charges, a fierce internal discussion took place and the decision adopted was to change strategy lest the adversary's blows undermine its support.

Nevertheless, two days after PUSC presidential candidate Miguel Angel Rodriguez' attacks, the PLN went on the offensive by reporting the manipulation of poor people and an apparent purchase of votes. Also, it terms as slander and dirty campaign what was reported by the PUSC. The PLN launched a series called "We cannot vote for Miguel Angel," recalling alleged irregularities in the distribution of taxi license plates, the sale of high school diplomas, and the use of construction material. Nevertheless, the analysts believe these actions have no influence on voters and they claim those were "isolated events" of no importance that "will not directly affect the party or the candidate."

In fact, when comparing the type of charges made by the PUSC and the PLN, Flury, Ramirez, and Rodriguez say those of the latter will have a lesser impact.

The two parties are criticized because they planned propaganda messages in a general way, without taking into consideration the characteristics of the press or television.

The TSE [Supreme Electoral Tribunal] deserves a special mention in all this. Ramirez believes it played an exaggerated role that was totally uncalled for. One specific example: its fruitless efforts to stop the parties from attacking each other. Analysts believe the TSE's frequent prohibitions have limited the debate and confrontation of ideas.

Generally speaking, the three specialists believe the PLN strategy mainly intends to depict Miguel Angel as a threat by stereotyping him as a neoliberal. They think the concept is not necessarily understood by most of the population. Social Democrats will reportedly offer the voters a party with experience, achievements, and a security tradition that, according to them, is guaranteed by every PLN government. Likewise, they predict that, in the end, undecided voters will give more importance to issues such as a government team and party tradition rather than honesty.

It is believed the green-white party's strategy is guided by the incentive-reply concept given the Social Christians' actions. In addition, the analysts emphasize the fact that, even though Carlos Espinach is in charge of the PLN campaign, he is unknown by voters, reticent, and totally out of contact with the media.

Referring to the PUSC's strategy, experts observe a tendency to present its candidate with more vehemence and firmness than in the recent past. Furthermore, they say Social Christians will try to send voters the message that Figueres is a person who cannot be trusted to rule a country, particularly due to the moral and business charges he has faced. The ruling party's strategists also believe undecided voters will eventually choose the most honest candidate rather than the one who offers more benefits to the people.

## PUSC's Rodriguez Vows To Make Education Priority

*PA0402225094 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 28 Jan 94 p 6a*

[Article by Laura Martinez]

[Text] Recalling Heredia as the seed of Costa Rican education, Miguel Angel Gutierrez, Social Christian Unity Party (PUSC) presidential hopeful, announced his commitment to make education a priority in the country if he is elected.

At a public plaza gathering, which occupied the five blocks west of the National University (UNA), the PUSC candidate said education is the instrument that permitted the country to achieve its current living standards.

Rodriguez guaranteed his supporters, who waited for two and a half hours in the middle of a chilly January day, that preschool education will be implemented nationwide and primary education will be improved. In that sense he insisted that he will give students opportunities through student bonds and high school education scholarships. He vowed to strengthen this sector as well as education in arts and crafts schools.

He stressed that his administration will totally fulfill the financial agreement for state superior education so that universities and businesses can jointly carry out investigations that will net revenues.

In the area of coffee plantations, Rodriguez criticized the departure of former Finance Minister Fernando Naranjo, who is now a Liberal Party leader and who left his post because he refused to reduce the coffee tax. He underscored that the current administration, on the contrary, created the coffee fund for $665 million colones, which permitted 5,000 families in Heredia to face the international market price crisis.

Most of the speakers who preceded him attacked opposition Liberal Party candidate Jose Maria Figueres and appealed to honest Liberal Party members to vote for the PUSC in the coming elections.

Among the speakers who preceded Rodriguez was Gujillermo Chacon, candidate for province alderman; Sergio Salazar, deputy candidate; political leader Bernardo Benavides; former Security Minister Victor Emilio Herrera; former presidential candidate Juan Jose Trejos; Mabel Nieto, candidate for second vice president; and Abel Pacheco, candidate for first vice president.

The rally was also attended by Deputy Danilo Chaverri, former President Mario Echandi, and Lorena Clare, the presidential hopeful's wife.

## PLN's Figueres Promises To Support Production

*PA0402225394 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 28 Jan 94 p6a*

[Report by Jose Luis Fuentes]

[Text] In addition to explaining that in the next elections voters have to choose between two platforms, Jose Maria Figueres, presidential candidate for the National Liberation Party [PLN], during a rally held last night in a public square in Parrita de Puntarenas, has promised to support production, tourism, and housing.

When talking to the crowd, which area residents said was much larger than the one that came to hear Oscar Arias Sanchez during the 1986 campaign, Figueres said: "The PLN platform is much different than the other party's." The PLN platform, a platform by which our standard of living has increased, puts us back on the course of progress and development, but theirs (Social Christian Unity Party) is the neoliberal platform, a platform by which the government has concentrated wealth and increased poverty," he said.

According to the PLN candidate, the Social Christians are talking of social programs due to the campaign, but the first thing they did was to dismiss cooks from school lunchrooms, because saving a few colones is more important to them than feeding hundreds of thousands of children."

He has told the area residents he would stimulate tourism, rectify the housing problem, and amend import rates to boost the productive sector, because "an economy car should not pay higher taxes than a luxury car." Others to speak at this rally were Mario Alvarez, Parrita candidate for deputy; Mario Charpentier, former public security minister; and Luis Paris, former campaign chief for Jose Miguel Corrales. Paris has referred to the unity within the PLN, saying differences were a thing of the past. "Today, our party is united to face the neoliberal politics that are threatening Costa Ricans, politics that have lowered our levels of health, education, and raised the cost of living." Figures has said the current government closed 68 health centers in the last year alone, which led to a strong decline in health in rural areas. For that reason, old diseases, such as dengue, measles, and malaria, have reappeared, and we have new ones, such as cholera, he has said.

### Discusses Reviewing Relations With Cuba

*PA0502230294 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1623 GMT 5 Feb 94*

[Text] San Jose, 5 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Jose Maria Figueres, National Liberation Party (PLN) presidential candidate, said it is necessary for Costa Rica to review its relations with Cuba within the framework of new international relations.

During an impromptu news conference a few hours before the start of this country's general elections, Figueres cited the need to evaluate the current state of relations between Costa Rica and Cuba "without deviating from the issue of human rights, which concerns all Costa Ricans."

"By respecting each country's decisions and internal situation, we are obligated to analyze, review this case to ascertain whether our position responds to current world realities," the presidential candidate said.

He dodged voicing an opinion about the U.S. blockade against Cuba, saying "what should concern us is our relations and policies toward Cuba, and that is what we are going to reevaluate."

"At any rate, I believe every country on the continent that still does not have relations with that nation (Cuba) should also review their policies," he added.

Figueres said "the world evolves. Nothing should remain static. I believe we all must evaluate the possibility of improving things, seeking, of course, that all our countries and people, including the Cuban people, may have a better future."

With respect to the possible reestablishment of diplomatic or consular relations during his eventual administration, the presidential candidate responded "first we must review our policies in light of world conditions; afterward, we will decide."

### 'Large Turnout' Reported at Polling Stations

*PA0602131594 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1118 GMT 6 Feb 94*

[Text] San Jose, 6 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Costa Rican polling stations opened at 0500 (1100 GMT) today allowing 1.8 million Costa Ricans to elect a new president and reelect Legislative Assembly and municipal authorities.

The voting, which will continue until 1800 (0000 GMT), began with absolute normalcy, a large turnout, and great enthusiasm at the 8,363 polling tables throughout the country.

Initial results will begin to be known by 2000 (0200 GMT) and shortly thereafter the winner, who will govern the country for a four-year period beginning 8 May, replacing Rafael Angel Calderon, will be announced.

On the eve of the elections, the two main presidential candidates, Social Christian Miguel Angel Rodriguez and Social Democrat Jose Maria Figueres maintained a close tie, according to several surveys.

As part of the elections, besides electing a president and two vice presidents, Costa Ricans will reelect members to the Legislative Assembly, composed of 57 deputies, and authorities of 81 municipalities throughout the country.

Approximately 3,000 policemen will guarantee order during the process. All through the day and until tomorrow, a "dry law" banning the sale of liquor will be enforced. The restriction began Friday night, when electoral propaganda also stopped to give voters a 48-hour reflection period.

### Electoral Tribunal President Issues Message

*PA0602135294 San Jose Radio Network in Spanish 1303 GMT 6 Feb 94*

["Message to all Costa Ricans" read by Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) President Rafael Villegas Santillon on Election Day from the TSE offices in San Jose—live or recorded]

[Text] Good morning, Costa Ricans. The long-awaited day in which we will participate in our civic duty has arrived. The TSE respectfully expresses its confidence that we will carry out this electoral process with the same order and enthusiasm we have shown in previous elections. Our only request to the members of the Vote-Counting Boards is that they strictly follow the instructions they received from the TSE. Political parties have supervisors at the Vote-Counting Boards, whose only function will be supervising those boards. They cannot engage in any other activities.

The TSE is receiving messages from all across the country. People are already voting, the polling stations are open, and there is a good turnout at the various polls. As we have done in the past, we will place our homeland very high on the list of privileged democratic countries.

I urge the TSE members to do their job. The TSE assures you that we are doing everything and have done everything possible to ensure you can vote without any problems. You can rest assured that your vote will be respected.

Costa Ricans: Democracy needs your vote. Go out and vote.

### Exit Poll Shows Figueres in Lead With 51.6 Percent of Vote

*PA0702015294 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0109 GMT 7 Feb 94*

[Text] San Jose, 6 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Channel 7 Television announced tonight that, according to the Victor Borge and Associates specialized polling firm, opposition presidential candidate Jose Maria Figueres has won today's elections.

The firm carried out its survey at 100 voting centers throughout the country, and the results show that Figueres—the candidate of the opposition National Liberation Party (PLN)—obtained 51.6 percent of the votes. The same poll shows Miguel Angel Rodriguez, the candidate of the ruling Social Christian Unity Party (PUSC), with 46.2 percent of the votes.

The difference of 5.4 percent (some 80,000 votes) places the results outside the 3-percent margin of error that Borge and Associates, along with similar companies such as CID-Gallup and Unimer, uses as a guideline.

The results show a clear victory for Figueres in the provinces of San Jose, Heredia, Cartago, and Puntarenas. They show a virtual tie in Alajuela, and a loss for Figueres in Limon and Guanacaste. The specialists say the trend continued through noon and it is not possible for it to change.

Victor Borge, the president of the polling firm, reiterated that the poll has a margin of error of 3 percent and added that the remaining five political contenders received a total of only 2.3 percent of the votes.

Elections were held today in Costa Rica to chose a president, two vice presidents, 57 deputies to the Legislative Assembly, and 1,000 councilmen.

The electoral process concluded at 1800 hours (0000 GMT 7 February), and the official results may be known at 2000 GMT.

### First TSE Report Shows Figueres Leading

*PA0702032794 Paris AFP in Spanish 0250 GMT 7 Feb 94*

[Text] San Jose, 6 Feb (AFP)—According to the first report issued by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE), social democratic candidate Jose Maria Figueres leads the presidential election held today with 51.38 percent of the votes compared to 46.11 percent for his ruling party adversary Miguel Angel Rodriguez.

In the first official count of 191,727 votes from 1,111 polling tables out of a total of 8,363 tables throughout the country, Figueres, of the National Liberation Party (PLN) received 98,506 votes, while Rodriguez, of the Social Christian Unity (PUSC), got 88,406 votes.

Approximately 1.9 million Costa Ricans were eligible today to vote for a new president, two vice presidents, 87 congressional deputies, and municipal authorities for the country's cantons.

### Latest Figures Confirm Figueres Election Victory

*PA0702053294 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0457 GMT 7 Feb 94*

[Text] Here are last minute figures from the Supreme Electoral Tribunal [TSE]: 648,643 votes for the National Liberation Party [PLN] and 618,650 votes for the Social Christian Unity Party.

This has been the last report from the TSE. The PLN lead as the TSE closes down for the night is 29,993 votes. The total votes counted is 1,303,754. The total tables counted is 7,305. Tables left to be counted amount to 1,058. I repeat: Votes in favor of Figueres number 648,643. Votes in favor of Rodriguez number 618,650.

### PUSC's Rodriguez Concedes Defeat

*PA0702050294 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0321 GMT 7 Feb 94*

[Statement by Miguel Angel Rodriguez, Costa Rican Social Christian Unity, PUSC, presidential candidate, in the Corobici Hotel in San Jose—live]

[Text] I do not want to make the people wait any longer for this statement. All I was waiting for was the chance to have a personal communication to wish [Figueres] the greatest success.

The goal of this entire campaign has been a [words indistinct] [applause] and this continues to be our [words indistinct]. I wish every success for the new government in the coming four years because it has to do with the well-being of Costa Ricans. I wish and pray to God [words indistinct] our goal is that every Costa Rican should have greater well-being [words indistinct]. This continues to be [words indistinct]. I therefore pray to God and all Costa Ricans that we rally around the national flag and help this country come out ahead in the best possible way. Our goal is that all of you should enjoy the best possible standard of living. [applause]

I want to thank you first of all; you, the people who paid me the great honor of voting for me and those who did not vote for me. I thank you all. For many months you allowed me the privilege of walking these streets [words indistinct]. I received the affection of those who support and supported me. [Words indistinct] I thank all of you. [applause]

What is there to say about the leaders of this extraordinary party? They all gave me their heartfelt support [words indistinct] when it seemed as if there was not the slightest chance for this campaign to achieve as important results as we have received. When the going got tough, they supported me, they gave me their dreams, hopes, we shared pains [words indistinct]. For all of you I [words indistinct]. [applause]

Those who lead the campaign, those who worked in the cantons or in the neighboring circuit districts [passage indistinct]. For all of you my sincerest appreciation. I am sure the fatherland and God will appreciate this. This campaign is a campaign of [word indistinct]. It is a campaign of great ideals, a campaign that has called for us to be better, a campaign that has called on us to act in solidarity with others. This has been a campaign that asks us to (?follow the good example of the great Costa Rican institutions). [applause]

I am convinced that all of us who supported this great campaign have not done so in vain because today many Costa Ricans understand better the need to work for their own improvement and the [words indistinct]. This has made the campaign worth it.

There are so many people I should mention, but I will not mention them because I would always run the risk of leaving someone's name out. I would like to mention one person. I want to shower on this person all the affection, all the gratitude, all the emotion that I feel for all the people in this marvelous country. I want to thank all of you through my wife Lorena. [applause]

Lorena has been an extraordinary companion. She went much further than what seemed physically possible for a human being. The endless work, the toughest tasks, the greatest affection for all party leaders. My office became, during the difficult moments, the living room where practically everyone sought advice, consolation, and encouragement. She is the reflection of our belief in women's struggle; she is the reflection of our endearment for all Costa Ricans. In her I see the work of my children, my relatives, the work by the campaign directors, work by canton leaders, the work of those who were in the schools today, the work of those in charge of transportation, the work of those who acted as receptionists and guides throughout the country; the work of all Social Christians and all Costa Ricans. [applause] When I give Lorena a big kiss to thank her for her dedication I am thanking all Costa Ricans.

The country must continue united toward progress. We have accomplished a great task. I hope that President-elect Mr. Jose Maria Figueres Olsen chooses the best group, that he will go down the path of good, have the wisdom to distinguish what is good for Costa Rica and what is good (?for the people) who require our government's support and solidarity. I wish all Costa Ricans to join us tonight to pray to God to bless Costa Rica. God bless Costa Rica! [applause]

## Figueres Pledges Government 'for Those in Greater Need'

*PA0702051894 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0425 GMT 7 Feb 94*

[Text] San Jose, 6 Feb (DPA)—Costa Rican President-elect Jose Maria Figueres promised today to form a government "for those in greater need," encourage health and social welfare programs, and establish a family basket that will protect workers wages.

In his first statements following his victory in the Sunday elections, Figueres, a 39-year-old engineer and businessman stated that Costa Rica must "conduct itself intelligently" in confronting the challenges of the world economy. He insisted on the need to encourage technological development as well as promote competition among productive enterprise. The new president promised to encourage small businesses and to continue promoting a process of industrial modernization in Costa Rica.

Figueres refused to talk about his plans for the first 100 days of his administration and said that his task will be oriented to the four years of his government which is scheduled to being on 8 May. He reiterated his commitment to control increases in the cost of living with the establishment of a "modern family basket."

The president-elect added that his administration will double housing programs, stress preventive health programs, and reopen health clinics in the rural areas which were closed by the current Social Christian government of President Rafael Calderon. He indicated that he will further plans to raise the quality of education, include a second language in the primary and secondary school programs as well as promote sports activities.

## Report on First Statements by President-Elect Figueres

*PA0702060994 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0524 GMT 7 Feb 94*

[Report by Mitzi Madrigal]

[Text] We are broadcasting directly from the Jose Figueres Ferrer Liberationist House where new President Jose Maria Figueres Olsen has given his first impromptu speech indicating that as president-elect of Costa Rica he will continue with the promises made during the election campaign.

He promised that he will help those most needy sectors of Costa Rica and also reiterated that as of tomorrow we must all stand under the same white, blue, and red flag to fight for Costa Rica's cause. Let us now listen to statements by President-elect Jose Maria Figueres Olsen's here in front of the Green Balcony.

[Begin Figueres recording] ... the future is ahead. The future, hope, and expectation lie ahead with National Liberation once again in the government. [applause and music] I would also like to express my appreciation to many men and women. I would like to thank [word indistinct], my lifelong companion, who has supported me and helped me transcend tough and difficult moments. I would also like to thank [words indistinct]. [end recording]

We just listened to part of the statements made by Jose Maria Figueres Olsen who was chosen today as the new Costa Rican president. Tomorrow, during our first newscast we will be providing more details related to this election process and statements made during the day by President-elect Jose Maria Olsen.

### Niehaus Urges OAS To Organize November Summit

*PA0602215494 Paris AFP in Spanish 1738 GMT 5 Feb 94*

[Text] San Jose, 5 Feb (AFP)—Today, Costa Rican Foreign Minister Bern Niehaus expressed his support for the OAS to be in charge of organizing an American summit scheduled for next November to strengthen this organization and discuss North-South cooperation.

Niehaus, who appears to be a favorite in the March elections for the position of OAS secretary general, said that the time has come for the OAS to become a center for discussing the problems facing the continent. During a meeting with foreign media correspondents, Niehaus noted that "the OAS should play a leading role in solving problems facing the region and should advocate greater North-South cooperation."

In a clear reference to Fidel Castro's government, Niehaus stated that only "democratic countries" should participate in the American summit, which was originally called by U.S. President Bill Clinton. Although he favors seeking a negotiated solution in Cuba to "pave the way for democracy and promote respect for human rights," Niehaus emphasized that he does not approve of Cuban government delegates attending the summit. Niehaus pointed out that "there are other mechanisms that can be used to solve the Cuban issue because no one in his right mind could favor bloodshed in that nation."

Niehaus, who in the past criticized the government of Alberto Fujimori, said that he would favor Peru's participation in the summit because "there has been sufficient evidence of a return to democracy."

In addition, Niehaus rejected any changes in Costa Rica's foreign policy.

### President Optimistic About Mexican Free Trade Agreement

*PA0702033894 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Feb 94*

[Report by William Cespedes from the Presidential Palace; from the "Radio Reloj Newscast;"—live]

[Text] President Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier says that satisfactory progress is being made in negotiations with Mexico for a free trade agreement. Yesterday afternoon Calderon talked with his Mexican colleague Carlos Salinas de Gortari on the phone. We need to tie up certain aspects related to the field of agriculture, even though President Calderon says that both Mexico and Costa Rica have partially yielded to arrive at an agreement, which should be the case in any negotiation.

The sugar topic was resolved at the beginning of the week. There have also been agreements on the topic of meat, which only leaves pending dairy products and derivatives as well as other agricultural products of great demand in the Mexican market. President Calderon added:

[Begin recording] [Calderon] All this is very important in our negotiations with Mexico. I had the opportunity to talk with President Salinas; he in turn spoke to his minister. I did the same with [Economy and Industry] Minister [Roberto] Rojas. Thus, any minor differences that could possibly remain, especially with industrial products, could be solved if we all give in a little.

Minister Rojas feels very optimistic. He has scheduled the last work session with Don Jaime Serra Puche, Mexican commerce and industrial development secretary, for 14 February—the last meeting at the ministerial level. We expect white smoke to emerge and enable us to announce a new treaty.

The topic of agriculture, which is being studied by the deputy agriculture ministers, is pending. Our deputy agriculture minister was in Mexico. I am waiting for a meeting next week between [Agriculture and Livestock] Minister [Juan] Lizano and Professor [Carlos] Hank Gonzalez, Mexican agriculture and hydraulic resources secretary, to reach a final agreement on the topic of agriculture. I feel very optimistic. I believe that we have now moved ahead substantially and it is very possible that we can have the draft ready in February.

[Cespedes] In what specific areas in the industrial field did Costa Rica give in?

[Calderon] No, it is not that we gave in. Well, all of us have yielded a little. Since formal talks began three years ago both Mexico and Costa Rica have yielded a bit from their original stance. This is normal for any negotiation between two sides. If both sides had chosen to remain inflexible, we would have never been able to reach an agreement.

[Cespedes] [question indistinct]

[Calderon] This is precisely where a very satisfactory formula has emerged; we are just waiting for Mexico to ratify it.

[Cespedes] What is the formula? The meat topic?

[Calderon] The sugar topic is practically resolved. This leaves only the meat and dairy products. The reports I have seem to indicate that the meat topic is practically resolved. Anyway, these are the details that I am precisely expecting to receive from the agriculture minister with an updated report. [end recording]

President Calderon expects to sign the free trade agreement with Mexico before the end of March. This treaty will allow Costa Rica to penetrate a market of 90 million inhabitants where most Costa Rican agricultural products are very well accepted and are much in demand, which will in turn benefit the Costa Rican economy.

## El Salvador

### Foreign Ministry Denies Authorizing Diplomat To Leave

*PA0402144694 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 3 Feb 94 p 4*

[Excerpt] The Salvadoran Foreign Ministry in no way authorized the departure of Major Ismael Lopez. It was only after he had left that the U.S. Embassy informed the Ministry that Lopez had departed but without specifying how, Salvadoran Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Salaverria told LA PRENSA GRAFICA. In addition, Salaverria said the U.S. Embassy has been asked to explain how Lopez left the country.

Salaverria pointed out that the Foreign Ministry has no jurisdiction over who leaves the country and that this is the Immigration Department's duty. He said that, according to international law, Maj. Lopez, who allegedly killed bodyguard Crescencio Diaz, enjoys diplomatic immunity and that therefore he will be tried in the United States. "Maj. Lopez' diplomatic immunity precludes his being interrogated in El Salvador," Salaverria said. He also said that the Foreign Ministry had checked Lopez' diplomatic immunity in the Ministry's files. [passage omitted]

### Foreign Ministry Protests U.S. Official's Departure

*PA0402193594 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Feb 94*

[From the "YSU Radio News" newscast]

[Text] The Salvadoran Foreign Ministry released a communique at noon [1800 GMT] today confirming that the U.S. Embassy kept the Ministry abreast of the incident in which Major Ismael Lopez's bodyguard was killed. The document asserts that authorization was never requested for the U.S. officer to leave the country because the U.S. Embassy only kept the foreign minister abreast of the situation by telephone.

Upon confirming the incident, the U.S. Embassy promised the Salvadoran Foreign Ministry to prosecute the officer in accordance with U.S. legislation as stipulated under the Vienna Convention. Despite the official explanations provided by the U.S. Embassy, the communique states, the Salvadoran Government is not fully satisfied. Consequently, a letter of protest has been sent to the Clinton administration demanding penalties against the individuals who violated El Salvador's laws, especially its immigration laws.

### Foreign Ministry Communique on Salvadoran Bodyguard's Death

*PA0502175094 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 4 Feb 94 p 24*

[All quotation marks as published]

[Text] We have received the following press communique from the Foreign Relations Ministry which reads as follows:

"With respect to opinions voiced on the painful case involving the death of Mr. Jose Crescencio Diaz Alvarado, which took place this past 21 January, and in which U.S. Major Ismael Lopez is implicated, this Foreign Ministry would like to clarify the following:

"1. Although it is true that the U.S. Embassy in El Salvador did limit itself to telephonically notifying the Foreign Ministry on the circumstances involving the death of Mr. Diaz Alvarado, this Ministry hereby states that in no way was it requested to issue a permit in favor of Maj. Lopez, and in any case, it is not up to this Ministry to issue said exit permits.

"2. Communication between the Embassy of the United States of America and the Foreign Ministry was limited to a telephonic report on the circumstances involving the death of Mr. Diaz Alvarado the same morning events took place, and that since Maj. Lopez had diplomatic immunity, the U.S. Embassy committed itself to put him on trial a per U.S. laws, as stipulated by the Vienna Convention with respect to diplomatic relations. This Foreign Ministry has been able to confirm that Maj. Lopez is accredited as a U.S. diplomat in our country, and as such enjoys diplomatic immunity. Subsequently, that afternoon the U.S. Embassy once against contacted the Foreign Ministry to report that Maj. Lopez had left El Salvador in order to be put at the disposal of U.S. judicial authorities through a court martial.

"3. This Foreign Ministry in due time requested information from the U.S. Embassy as well as from the Salvadoran immigration authorities on the circumstances and procedures used by Maj. Lopez in abandoning the country.

"4. Due to the fact that explanations provided by the U.S. Embassy are not sufficiently satisfactory, this Foreign Ministry has been forced to send a protest note to the U.S. Government through its embassy, at the same time demanding penalties for those responsible for breaking El Salvador's immigration and air transportation laws.

[Issued] San Salvador, 4 Feb 1994."

## Cristiani: U.S. Embassy Official's Departure Violated Law

*PA0402192394 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Feb 94*

[Report by Daisy Villalobos from the "Facing the Moment" newscast]

[Text] The Salvadoran Government will lodge a formal protest with the U.S. Government for violating immigration procedures in the case of Major Ismael Lopez, President Alfredo Cristiani stated on 4 February. The U.S. officer, who is accused of killing a Salvadoran bodyguard last January, was taken out of the country illegally by U.S. Embassy officials who flew him in an aircraft to Panama.

On Tuesday, Salvadoran Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Salaverria said the diplomatic mission violated the country's laws. [sentence as heard] Today, President Cristiani abandoned the foreign minister's position, and he said a protest will be forwarded to the U.S. Government.

[Begin Cristiani recording] A protest will be submitted to the U.S. Government, because the country's immigration laws have been violated with the departure of Major Lopez. We cannot tolerate this, regardless of who has diplomatic immunity. We feel that our country is willing to respect all international laws. There was no reason why Maj. Lopez was taken out of the country without going through the country's immigration procedures. This is the statement that will be sent to the State Department. We are demanding that the U.S. Government, in keeping with international agreements, impose penalties on those people responsible for violating the country's immigration procedures. [end recording]

According to the president, the diplomatic mission also ignored a series of legal procedures with which it should have complied before taking the U.S. officer out of national territory. The head of state also said instructions have been issued to control the exits and entries of all types of aircraft.

Regarding compensation for the relatives of the victim, the Salvadoran president said his government has included this in the protest note, because the judge in charge of the case in the United States must be made aware of this. The U.S. Embassy has announced that Maj. Ismael Lopez will be tried by a military court in the United States. In this respect, President Cristiani said the government has requested the presence of a representative of the District Attorney's Office as an observer at Maj. Lopez' court-martial.

## Minister Says U.S. Followed Procedures in Lopez Case

*PA0502045994 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 5 Feb 94*

[From the "Up to Date" newscast]

[Text] Defense Minister General Humberto Corado Figueroa said Salvadoran authorities could not prevent the departure of U.S. Major Mike Lopez as the U.S. Embassy acted in accordance with the Vienna Convention, which protects diplomatic officials.

Although Gen. Corado deplored the murder of Salvadoran bodyguard Crecensio Diaz, he said that in his opinion the U.S. Embassy acted in accordance with the Vienna Convention articles that regulate diplomatic relations. Nevertheless, Corado added, diplomatic immunity does not mean that embassy officials cannot be punished according to the laws of their own countries when they commit a crime.

[Begin Corado recording] The Salvadoran Government has the right to remain vigilant in this case and demand from the U.S. Government, which represents U.S. interests, that Maj. Lopez be judged according to U.S. laws in an impartial trial. [end recording]

According to Corado, if Maj. Lopez left the country in a U.S. aircraft, it could not be intercepted, because the personnel and the infrastructure, including ground vehicles and air vessels of foreign missions, are also protected by diplomatic immunity.

[Begin Corado recording] Extraterritoriality exists in embassies, aircraft, or any other type of vehicle owned by the embassy. Therefore, whenever a foreign citizen or diplomatic official is aboard an embassy aircraft, car, or any type of vehicle, it is as if he were in his own country. [end recording]

On another subject, regarding the fact that many Central American countries are reorganizing their armies, Corado said that the Salvadoran Armed Forces are not opposed to changes as adjustments consonant with the current situation in the country can be made.

## Presidents Cristiani, Gaviria Support Coffee Producers

*PA0402164094 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 29 Jan 94 p 7*

[Text] The presidents of El Salvador and Colombia, Alfredo Cristiani and Cesar Gaviria, respectively, have backed coffee producers by issuing a joint statement promising to conclude the trade and investment agreement between both countries, Venezuela, and Central America and to implement it promptly. The leaders stated that they will continue to support the coffee-producing countries' efforts to permanently upgrade the bean's international prices.

Regarding their bilateral relations, the heads of state agreed to continue working to establish the Colombian-Salvadoran Commission on 24 and 25 February in San Salvador. This commission will allow them to formulate an effective cooperation program. Gaviria and Cristiani will request that the commission gear its work toward reaching an agreement on judicial cooperation and mutual legal assistance issues "so as to establish a common front to counter all kinds of criminal organizations," in reference to drug-trafficking activities.

The leaders agreed that factors, such as extreme poverty, persist and negatively hinder their countries' possibilities to achieve the desired socioeconomic development. In this respect, they expressed their support for preparation of the Social Development World Summit to be held in Denmark in March 1995. The presidents stated their conviction that full respect for human rights and basic liberties are an essential part of all democratic systems and praised the efforts made by their administrations in this respect.

The presidents underscored the importance of the Uruguayan Round negotiations and of the free trade agreement implementation between Mexico, the United States, and Canada on international trade. They also reaffirmed their decision to continue strengthening the solidarity and cooperation between their countries, which are fundamental to confronting the world's challenges and requirements.

## Guatemala

### President Denies Rumors of Military Coup

*PA0502165094 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1615 GMT 5 Feb 94*

[Text] Guatemala City, 5 Feb (Notimex)—Guatemalan President Ramiro de Leon Carpio denied rumors related to a possible coup by military officers dissatisfied with current Defense Minister Mario Enriquez.

According to de Leon, the democratic process in Guatemala is going through a period of great consolidation and stipulated that he has not been requested to remove the defense minister, whom he considers to be one of his most trusted allies.

Local radio stations, citing confidential sources, reported that a group of military officers "dissatisfied with Enriquez' management style had called for his dismissal or there would be a coup during the next few days."

The radio reports contrast sharply with the calm in the streets adjacent from the presidential palace and the government house where security measures remain normal.

### Defense Minister Opposes Formation of Truth Commission

*PA0602160394 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 3 Feb 94 p 2*

[Text] For the first time ever, Defense Minister General Mario Rene Enriquez Morales admitted yesterday that the Army has always opposed the establishment of a Truth Commission because it considers that such a commission would be used for actions of revenge instead of to reconcile the Guatemalan people.

Enriquez Morales, who participated in the Peace Commission for two years, said the talks have always had this objective as their sole purpose and that the Truth Commission, which he called "the vengeance commission," would only polarize society further.

He added: The formation of this commission has always been opposed, and I will tell you why. We object to it because it will attempt to open the wounds of events that occurred in 1980, 1981, and 1982, and this would not help the country at all but, quite the contrary, would promote confrontation.

The defense minister concluded: We would accept the formation of a commission, but of real truth and not the one you formed because, in this case, the actions are aimed against the Army and the government in general, because the clandestine guerrilla would not be identifiable. [sentence as published]

## Honduras

### Armed Forces Chief Comments on Jeering, Military Changes

*PA0402212994 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 28 Jan 94 p 7*

[Report by Juan Carlos Vasquez]

[Text] Luis Alonso Discua Elvir, Armed Forces commander in chief, stated that the jeering received by the Armed Forces Superior Council at the National Stadium was a demonstration of the freedom and democracy in Honduras.

"Logically, interested parties manipulated the masses to do this. If you study psychology you will see that people can easily be prompted to do such things. Honestly, it is nothing more than a reflection of the democracy achieved in this country," he added.

Discua Elvir also denied that this is an attitude shared by Hondurans in general. "The population does not just consist of people in Tegucigalpa. There are 5 million inhabitants in this country, and there were only approximately 15,000 people at the stadium. They do not represent the entire country."

He said that what has most affected the institution's image are the mistakes committed by the military in the past. "As responsible persons, we must face the challenge. We must never look back, and we must continue on." Discua Elvir explained that in Honduras "we must look for what is best. A great future is envisioned for the country. Dr. Reina was very clear in his inaugural speech when establishing the rules of the game, so let us hope that the people support him." He stressed that people must pay attention to the last part of the president's speech, when he said that "united people can solve their problems."

The chief of the Armed Forces expressed that he does not feel like people showed disrespect for him. "I think it was a very well organized demonstration. This is not the first time this kind of action has taken place."

Discua Elvir regretted this kind of demonstration, however. He added that it divides the Honduran people because "the members of the institution are part of society; they have children and other relatives; no matter what, we are part of the Honduran family." Consequently, he said that "if we begin this government with division in the family, I think we will not go anywhere."

Discua Elvir asserted that he hopes the people do not leave President Reina alone and that in the next few days he can consolidate part of what he has said. Concerning the promise made by Reina during his campaign on the application of a military education service, Discua Elvir revealed that the Armed Forces are "absolutely ready. We have reviewed our system and determined that it is too costly. It would be more suited for a developed country." He explained that countries such as Mexico and South American nations do not use a system like this for youngsters to fulfill this citizens' duty. However, he added that Honduras cannot be the first Latin American country to implement such a system. "As we are a very cultured and educated people, it is going to turn out alright," he said in a sarcastic tone.

Regarding the possibility of eliminating the position he holds, Discua Elvir remarked that he has not heard such a thing. Nonetheless, he said that in other countries information is being sought, while "here it is being taken away." [sentence as published] "I have no problem with that," he continued. He stated that if the post of chief of the Armed Forces is eliminated, the defense minister would have to assume his post.

He noted he has some ideas on the police and the country's defense that he will present to President Reina. "We are advancing in keeping with Latin America's political reality. Let us hope it all turns out alright and Hondurans can reconcile with themselves, which is so much needed."

Gen. Discua Elvir concluded that many new reforms could be implemented during the present presidential period.

## Armed Forces Announce Transfers, Confirm Posts

*PA0502171694 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 3 Feb 94 p 11*

[Text] The Armed Forces yesterday confirmed several unit commanders to their posts and announced Army changes.

According to Colonel Napoleon Santos Aguilar, director of the Armed Forces Public Relations Directorate, General Lazaro Melanio Avila Soleno will be the new chief of the Armed Forces Joint Chief of Staff. Col. Santos Aguilar also said that Col. Jorge Alberto Puerto Martinez will replace Col. Jose Francisco Davila Nolasco in the 101st Infantry Brigade. Davila Nolasco will in turn head Army Operations.

The following colonels were appointed commanders of posts: Enmanuel Flores Mejia, 1st Infantry Battalion; Jorge Alberto Juarez Bueso, Recablin [Armored Cavalry Regiment]; Jose Neptali Lara Bustillo, 1st Artillery Battalion; Cristobal Corrales Calix, 1st Corps of Engineers; Isaac Santos Aguilar, 4th Artillery Battalion; and Jose Antonio Pereira Ortez, 5th Infantry Battalion.

The spokesman added that Col. Jose Santos Padilla Guzman was appointed to head the 7th Infantry Battalion and Col. Manuel Luna Gutierrez was appointed to head the 15th Infantry Battalion.

Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Lopez Carballo, who had headed the 4th Infantry Battalion in La Ceiba, Atlantida, has been transferred to the Military Intelligence School.

The General Francisco Morazan Military Academy will be headed by Col. Marco Antonio Bonilla Reyes, the Army Logistics Command Support (CALE) will be headed by Col. Juan Ramon Valladares, and the Army Personnel Office will be headed by Col. Abelardo Banegas Garcia.

## Journalists Association Calls For Boycott Against Reina

*PA0502130794 Tegucigalpa EL PERIODICO DE HONDURAS in Spanish 4 Feb 94 p 37*

[Text] Tegucigalpa—The Honduran Journalists Association (CPH) yesterday ordered accredited professional journalists to abandon the Presidency as a new way to show President Reina that they deserve respect.

This resolution, which EL PERIODICO DE HONDURAS will honor and support, is a result of the very bad treatment journalists have received not only from [Presidential Private Secretary] Lucio Izaguirre, but also from President Reina, who labeled us as "money changers." The following is the official communique issued by the CPH Board of Directors.

**Communique No. 1**

The CPH Board of Directors orders all affiliates, members, and licensed students who cover the Presidency to immediately cease all news coverage related to Presidential House activities.

This measure will be in effect until the corresponding authorities negotiate with the CPH to allow journalists who cover the Presidential House to return within a framework of dignity and responsibility. The problem will not be solved in an atmosphere of luncheons and dinners as has been irresponsibly suggested.

[Signed] The Board of Directors

### President Reina Swears In 20 Deputy Ministers, Advisers

*PA0502125194 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 4 Feb p 11*

[Text] Tegucigalpa—On 3 February, President Carlos Roberto Reina swore in 20 deputy ministers who will work at the 12 ministries, as well as Dante Gabriel Ramirez, who will be minister [title as published] in charge of Central American issues. Reina also swore in political adviser Enrique Ortez Colindres and special adviser to the president Mario Reina Idiaquez, the president's brother.

It was reported that Jorge Bueso Arias and Guillermo Bueso will be sworn in today as secretaries of state [title as published] in charge of economic matters, Daniel Alfredo Figueroa will be sworn in as vice president of the Central Bank of Honduras, and Mario Espinal Zelaya will be sworn in as executive director of the Honduran Social Investment Fund. President Reina also swore in Juan Ramon Duran as the new press minister [title as published].

## Nicaragua

### Government Rejects U.S. Report on Human Rights

*PA0402141694 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 Feb 94*

[From the "This Morning" newscast]

[Text] Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal Sanchez has announced the Nicaraguan Government rejects the U.S. State Department's report on human rights and other topics of national life regarding our reality. The Nicaraguan foreign minister said a note will be sent very soon to the U.S. Government rejecting the report.

[Begin recording] [Leal] We believe the report is not fair. We find the report unacceptable. It reports things that occurred in the past, but it tends to imply there is a systematic policy of human rights violations in our country. We find reports by Amnesty International and other organizations are more objective in their analysis.

[Unidentified Reporter] Does the Nicaraguan Government reject the part of the report which says that military authorities are not under civilian control?

[Leal] Well, basically, we cannot accept that either. You have heard and read the president's speech from 2 December 1993. What we are trying to do here is institutionalize and professionalize the Armed Forces. In fact, very soon the executive branch will be sending the Legislative Assembly a draft law on the military organization process and social security for the military.

[Reporter] Does this mean relations with the United States are not good? Why has the White House drafted a report which says human rights are being violated in Nicaragua?

[Leal] I do not think relations with the United States will sour because of the report. We do not agree with the report. We are not saying violations have stopped. Unfortunately, there are still cases of human rights violations in our country. The government is completely convinced and determined, however, to ensure strict respect for human rights.

[Reporter] Will the government take steps to reject the report?

[Leal] We are drafting a response to the document, certainly. What [U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs] Mr. Watson has said in the past few months is completely different from what the State Department is saying now. This document, which you should have, relates the cases that occurred in 1993. It refers, for instance, to confrontations between recontras and recompas. It refers to clashes between Sandinists and non-Sandinists, which we all know have occurred in the rural areas of our country. This does not mean, however, that the government wants these things to happen. [end recording]

## Panama

### New Cabinet Members Announced; To Be Sworn In 7 Feb

*PA0702001894 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 6 Feb 94*

[Unscheduled announcement listing the members of Panamanian President Guillermo Endara's new cabinet; monitored in progress]

[Text] ...possession of their posts, which is scheduled to take place at noon tomorrow. We repeat the names: Government and Justice Minister Jacobo Salas, Foreign Minister Jose Raul Mulino, Public Works Minister Engineer Jose Antonio Dominguez, Finance and Treasury Minister Engineer Victor Juliao, Education Minister Teacher Marcos Alarcon, Labor and Social Welfare Minister Gregorio Ordonez, Health Minister Jose A. Remon, Commerce and Industry Minister Ricardo Fabrega, Housing Minister Engineer Rodrigo Sanchez, Agricultural Development Minister Cesar Pereira Burgos, Presidency Minister Yvonne Young, and Planning and Economic Policy Minister Delia Cardenas.

Furthermore, tomorrow at 1300 a special cabinet meeting will be held to discuss several announcements to be made by the president of the Republic.

## Foreign Minister Says Ties With Cuba, Peru 'Have Not Deteriorated'

*PA0402154394 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 3 Feb 94 p 14*

[Report by David Daniel Victoria]

[Text] Panama's relations with Cuba and Peru have not deteriorated, "but no great steps have been taken to improve ties with these two nations, either," Foreign Minister Jose Raul Mulino noted yesterday, adding that he trusts relations will be fully restored before he leaves office.

Mulino explained that bilateral relations with Cuba "have not been broken or suspended," adding that contacts with the Cuban Government are continuing even though Panama does not have an ambassador in that country. Mulino said, "Relations are very friendly, and there are no reasons for them to become marred."

Relations between Panama and Cuba cooled off because of differences that emerged following the 20 December 1989 U.S. invasion of Panama, an action that put an end to the military government that had remained in power for 21 years.

## PRD Announces Alliance With Liberal Republican, Labor Parties

*PA0402171594 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 31 Jan 94 p A-1*

[Article by Carmen Elida Contreras]

[Text] Yesterday, the opposition party Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] announced they will form an alliance with the Liberal Republican Party and the Labor Party [Pala]. According to PRD presidential candidate Ernesto Perez Balladares, this alliance will be the great coalition against hunger, unemployment, and mismanagement.

Balladares stated: "I believe the great alliance will be one against hunger, unemployment, neglect, and government inefficiency, and the alliance is already formed."

At a meeting of the National Directorate, some 296 PRD members approved their party's alliance with Pala and the Liberal Party and confirmed their support for the presidential ticket headed by Perez Balladares with Tomas Gabriel Altamirano Duque and Felipe Virzi as first and second vice presidents, respectively.

Perez Balladares criticized Arnulfist Party candidate Mireya de Gruber's and former comptroller general Ruben Dario Carles' programs. Carles is supported by the Civic Renewal Party, Molirena [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement], and the National Renewal Movement [Morena]. Balladares argued the two tickets reflect "the official state of affairs and contain the same proposals but in different packages."

Perez Balladares, who did not reject the possibility of other nonofficial groups joining his alliance before 8 February, said: "It is not a matter of sharing the cake, but of sharing an idea, a program. It is a matter of reaching an agreement as to the basis for a program."

Perez Balladares criticized candidates such as Carles, de Gruber, and Arias Calderon, who "live in and cling to the past" and who "will blatantly fail in 1994" when the problems and situations have changed.

The PRD's directorate reiterated its support for mayoral, legislator, and alternate-legislator candidates nominated by its new allies.

Meanwhile, Pala, which also held its political convention yesterday, restated its decision to form an alliance with the PRD and the Liberal Republican Party, and nominated the Perez Balladares-Altamirano-Virzi presidential ticket.

Pala President Carlos Lopez Guevara pointed out that although Pala is not represented on the presidential ticket, all the members support a "Torrijist alliance" to reach power together next May.

At its convention yesterday, the Republican Liberal Party unanimously supported the alliance and presidential ticket led by Perez Balladares.

## Solidarity Party Nominates Presidential Candidate

*PA0402170194 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 31 Jan 94 p 1*

[Article by Ibeth Vega G.]

[Text] Yesterday the Solidarity Party announced its presidential ticket. It is headed by Samuel Lewis Galindo, a businessman. The party also authorized its national directorate to negotiate an electoral alliance to face the upcoming 8 May elections.

The Solidarity Party held its convention at the Atlapa Convention Center. The other members of the presidential ticket are Carlos Clement as the first vice presidential candidate and Marisin Villalaz de Arias as the second vice presidential candidate. In his acceptance speech, Lewis Galindo promised more jobs, better education, and renegotiation of the foreign debt.

The Solidarity conventioneers also agreed to authorize the party's national directorate to negotiate before 8 February—the deadline established by the Electoral Tribunal for engaging in alliances—a possible political alliance with other parties. According to Villalaz de Arias, the Solidarity Party is talking with the National Unity Mission and the Papa Egoro Movement about the possibility of an alliance. The presidential ticket can be changed to adjust to the results of negotiations, a source said.

Meanwhile, at the Doctrinal Panamenista Party [Partido Panamenist Doctrinario—PD] convention, Jose Salvador Munoz was nominated as the presidential candidate. The nominee for first vice president is Rodrigo Bernal, and the nomination for second vice president went to Julia Suria. In his acceptance speech, Munoz described his party as the third force and the best option. According to him, the oligarchy that governed the country during the past three years and the Democratic Revolutionary Party and its allies, who represent 21 years of "military dictatorship and repression," must be discarded.

According to reports from the Electoral Tribunal, 1.5 million Panamanians, out of a population of 2.5 million, have been called to participate in the general elections in May. According to authorities, these will be the first democratic elections ever to take place.

## Carles Proposes Commissions To Investigate Corruption

*PA0402182694 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 3 Feb 94 p 1a*

[Report by Hermes Sucre Serrano]

[Text] Molirena [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement] presidential candidate Ruben Dario Carles has advocated the creation of special commissions to investigate the scandal with the Social Security Fund's (CSS) housing projects, the National Financial Corporation's (COFINA) operations, and the Van Dam Bridge project.

According to the former comptroller general, the recommendations that the Directorate for the Recovery of State Property (DRP) made to the Legislative Assembly must be made again. These recommendations found no fertile ground before and were rejected. In a document entitled, "The Position of Presidential Candidate Ruben Dario Carles With Regard to Corruption," the Molirena politician explains his views about the creation of commissions to speed up the cases on dealings investigated by the Comptroller's Office and the DRP.

Carles also recommended adopting legislation concerning seized funds. These funds should be deposited at the National Bank and used to finance social projects. With regard to legal matters, Carles proposed profound changes to the penal and judicial codes. As to the Fiscal Code, he maintained that it must be modified in the area that pertains to contracts in which the public sector is a party.

He also proposed serious regulation of the civil service system to improve bureaucracy. According to Carles, corruption does not only mean stealing but providing bad service.

Concerning the administration of justice, Carles noted that since the outset of the democratic government in December 1989 the Attorney General's Office has experienced a continuous crisis, one that "reached a climax with the investigation, trial, and ruling on the case of former Attorney General Rogelio Cruz. However, this did not end the crisis at the Attorney General's Office. This government office is safeguarding dozens of millions of dollars linked to drug trafficking or money laundering without making any progress in the investigations that are to lead to the respective trials," he stressed.

## Argentina

### Argentine Embassy Denies VOA Report on Selling Arms to Bosnia

*PY0502164094 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 4 Feb 94 p 3*

[Text] Belgrade, 4 Feb (EFE and TELAM-SNI)—The Argentine Embassy in Yugoslavia has denied that Argentina sent weapons to the Bosnian Muslims, as charged by the Serbian press, which, in turn, based its information on a VOA broadcast.

"The Committee for the Control of Sensitive Exports and Weapons has never permitted the sale of weapons to the countries of the former Yugoslavia based on the fact that Argentina strictly respects the UN resolution that prohibits such activities," states the communique from the Argentine Embassy in Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

To avoid the spread of war in the Balkans, the United Nations prohibited, in September 1991, the sale of weapons to the parties at war. However, during the eight months of the war in Croatia and the 22 months of confrontations in Bosnia, the Croatian forces and the Bosnian Muslims have clandestinely obtained weapons to fight against the powerful Army of Yugoslavia, a country which is currently made up of the Republics of Serbia and Montenegro, and which inherited the military arsenal from the government of Belgrade when the Republic of Yugoslavia was dismembered.

The Argentine Embassy note refers to a commentary by U.S. military expert Paul Beaver transmitted by the U.S. radio station which included Argentina in a list of countries that supplied weapons to the Muslim forces of Bosnia-Herzegovina, openly violating the embargo imposed by the United Nations to prevent the worsening of the Balkan conflict.

### Radical Senator Expresses Pessimism Over Elections

*PY0502204394 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 Jan 94 p 6*

[Interview with Senator Fernando de la Rua from the Radical Civic Union, UCR, for Buenos Aires, by Analia Argento in Buenos Aires; date not given]

[Text] [Argento] Is the internal party election in Buenos Aires unavoidable?

[De la Rua] We want to participate in the party convention and present a homogeneous discourse there. We believe we must attend the convention without feeling subjected to the pact and having the possibility of voting against the clause on reelection of a president who is in office and of reassessing the Buenos Aires Government's autonomy.

[Argento] Wouldn't it be more convenient to present a homogeneous discourse at the national level?

[De la Rua] Generally speaking it would, but with regard to this issue it would not be advisable because not everybody is of one mind. Here we have been presented with a fait accompli—there was no prior debate on it.

[Argento] You lost the debate when the UCR party convention approved the Democratic Pact. Shouldn't you conform to what the majority wishes?

[De la Rua] That is precisely what we are demanding in Buenos Aires City. You must bear in mind that programs and platforms for this type of election are put together by each constituency.

[Argento] Why do you think the pact is detrimental to the UCR?

[De la Rua] Because it has bowed to the government's wishes. What the pact has incorporated in the constitutional reform does not limit the monopoly control of power. On the contrary, it increases it by vesting the president with the power to issue decrees in cases of extreme necessity or emergency; by seeking to make all terms of office the same length; by incorporating the partial veto and the position of prime minister, which is a hybrid that has no power of its own. And above all, because it makes the role of the opposition wishy-washy and presents it as if it were backing the government.

[Argento] [Raul] Alfonsin contends that had the pact not been signed the country would have lurched toward chaos.

[De la Rua] The government was then considered a threat. Why should one trust it now? There is a contradiction in terms. The long and short of it is that the government has brought pressure to bear on us and we, the leading opposition party, instead of withstanding it, have surrendered our stronghold.

[Argento] Are you saying that the UCR "got cold feet?"

[De la Rua] Oh, absolutely.

[Argento] Given the UCR's infighting, how will you be able to keep the promise of being the guarantors of the constitutional reform pact?

[De la Rua] It has nothing to do with that. That is an election slogan that people can accept or reject. To gain credibility in our capital we have to base our campaign on the stance we have always had, namely being against the president's reelection and a constitutional reform that serves the government's interests and purposes.

[Argento] Criticism has been voiced of certain positions like that of Alberto Kohan [secretary general of the

Justicialist Party National Council] concerning the possibility of Constituent Assembly members having different positions from what the pact establishes. What image will the UCR give then if it also fails to present a united front?

[De la Rua] I have never changed either my stance or my discourse. The government, however, signed a pact and some of its officials say they can disregard it. Now, on closer examination, Article 6 of the law does not say that voting must be in keeping with the terms stipulated in the previous articles but rather that everything that does not fall under the rules established in Articles 2 and 3 will be considered null and void. Therefore, there are constraints on the fields, i.e. the issues that can be discussed, and not on the resolution made there.

[Argento] Are you going to head the list of Constituent Assembly members?

[De la Rua] I would love to.

[Argento] Can it be interpreted as a strategy to recover the ground lost in the October parliamentary elections?

[De la Rua] No, it is rather my duty vis-a-vis Buenos Aires residents. Now if my fellow party members want me to be a Constituent Assembly member (this issue does not rob me of my sleep; this is not my overriding concern), I will be one.

[Argento] [UCR Deputy] Leopoldo Moreau some days ago said that de la Rua "has no chance" of becoming a presidential candidate.

[De la Rua] He shares President Menem's views and it is only natural that he should do so.

[Argento] Will there be a rift within the UCR?

[De la Rua] Absolutely not. We have always wanted to have a united party and we will continue struggling within our party.

[Argento] Would you leave the UCR?

[De la Rua] Never.

[Argento] Alfonsin denied that he intended to intervene in the Buenos Aires City constituency. Do you think there will be sanctions?

[De la Rua] (He laughs) That would be just the thing that is missing to deepen the crisis we are enmeshed in due to the current UCR leadership.

[Argento] What is your forecast for the 10 April elections?

[De la Rua] Some public opinion polls show that the Justicialist Party has an overall majority. This process is already under way; the constitutional reform has for all practical purposes been passed, the government already has got it at hand since it is already discussing who Menem's running mate will be in 1995.

[Argento] Do you then think the UCR will limp badly?

[De la Rua] I wish just the opposite, but I must be pessimistic.

### Governor Duhalde Confirms Use of Cuban Meningitis Vaccine

*PY0502193894 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 4 Feb 94 p 12*

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires Governor Eduardo Duhalde asserted that the Cuban meningitis vaccine "will be used" in Buenos Aires Province, where in the last few hours a new meningitis case was reported—a five-month-old baby girl.

Duhalde said that "it has been proven that the vaccine is very effective in those older than five," but "not so for those younger than five." He said: "This is the only meningitis vaccine that exists so we are going to use it." [passage omitted]

## Bolivia

### Minister Says Relations With U.S. 'Narcotized'

*PY0402181794 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 26 Jan 94 p 1*

[Text] Foreign Minister Antonio Aranibar yesterday evaluated relations between Bolivia and the United States. He said they are "narcotized," adding that Bolivian and U.S. antidrug efforts have not yielded the expected results.

The minister examined the interdiction, prevention, and alternative development programs. He admitted that "they have had no visible effects" in either the United States or Bolivia.

Replying to questions from reporters, he said the subject is "controversial" and has caused confrontations in the search for consensus.

He said the reduction of illegal coca plantations in Bolivia has not been reflected in the volume of drugs entering the U.S. market. In addition, Bolivian peasant producers "have had no guarantees on the sale of their products to that country."

The minister said the peasants have found no market for their products and, because of the economic nature of this problem, they do not support the bilateral antidrug effort.

Among the achievements he mentioned were those attained between 1987 and 1992, when the area of illegal coca plantations was reduced by 47 percent, that is, by almost half of the limit established.

He said: "This shows the Bolivian Government has made a very great effort to reduce the offer of cocaine by reducing the cultivated areas." He added: "This caused a debate on the benefits of the policy and on its success or failure."

In Bolivia there is a clear difference between the traditional use of coca, its cultural value and its historical significance, and its use for the production of narcotics, which is regulated by Bolivian-U.S. agreements.

This situation has, to a considerable extent, narcotized Bolivian-U.S. relations, for which reason agreements and exchange notes were signed each year, combining the repression of traffickers with alternative development.

### Controversy Over Police Promotions Splits Senate

*PY0402162994 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 Feb 94*

[Report by Jaime Murillo]

[Excerpts] During a closed-doors session, the Senate yesterday approved the promotion of two police chiefs to the rank of general. MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] and Condepa [Conscience of the Fatherland] senators walked out of the session that dragged on until nearly midnight because they challenged the promotion of two officers. Those promoted to the rank of general are Colonel Luis Rocha Martinez—who is mentioned as the most likely candidate for the post of police commander—and Colonel Rogelio Vargas—whose candidacy was questioned by MIR and Condepa due to his involvement in the thwarted burning of precursors in the Huanchaca case. The Senate did not approve the promotion of Colonel Willy Arriaza—whose candidacy was also questioned by the parties that walked out of the session. [passage omitted]

Condepa Senator Andres Solis Rada said:

[Begin recording] I want to report that Condepa and MIR senators walked out of the Senate session because senators of the MNR [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement] and UCS [Solidarity Civic Union] ruling coalition joined forces with ADN [Nationalist Democratic Action] to promote Col. Arriaza, who worked as Arce Gomez's [interior minister under General Luis Garcia Meza] aide at the time of the terrible Harrington Street massacre which claimed the lifes of eight young MIR members. [passage omitted].

They even wanted to overrule the Bolivian Police command who believe only two officers should be promoted. Our decision to leave the session was instrumental in making the Senate stop and think about this. In the end only two officers were promoted. [passage omitted] [end recording] [passage omitted]

### New Police Commander Installed

*PY0502165294 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 5 Feb 94*

[Excerpt] At 1800 this afternoon President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada installed recently promoted General Luis Rocha Martinez as the new commander of the Bolivian police.

Before installing the new police commander, the president praised the work done by the deposed General Einar Lopez:

[Begin Sanchez recording] We must outline the important contribution made by Gen. Lopez, who is leaving this post, not only because of his absolutely honest performance, but also because of his dedication to the institution, his service to the community, and his important contribution to the beginning of a process, a plan, a project to reorganize the institution. [end recording]

The president said the country will need the services of Gen. Lopez when analyzing the measures necessary to bring the police closer to the people.

Gen. Einar Lopez was not present during the ceremony at government palace. The president also said that Gen. Rocha Martinez, the new police commander, was a man of unblemished honesty. [passage omitted]

## Brazil

### FSE Vote Delayed Again 'for Lack of Quorum'

*PY0402142994 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 4 Feb 94*

[Report by Cristina Indio do Brasil]

[Text] Voting on the Social Emergency Fund [FSE] has been postponed until 7 February. During the final congressional session of the week, congressmen approved just one amendment; which grants more power to legislators.

Congress will probably vote on the amendment that creates the FSE on 7 February. Yesterday congressmen approved a proposal to invert the agenda and vote on this amendment before others. For lack of quorum, however, everything was postponed until next week. Only an amendment that grants more power to Congress was approved yesterday. As a result of this amendment, congressmen can now summon for questioning by the Congressional Investigation Committees not only ministers but also second-echelon officials and directors of state-owned companies.

## Cardoso To Resign If Fund Not Approved

*PY0402140694 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 4 Feb 94*

[Text] Leaders of the Brazilian Social Democracy Party, Mario Covas and Jose Serra, support the finance minister's decision to resign if Congress does not approve the establishment of the FSE.

Senator Pedro Simon, government leader at Congress, has confirmed that Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso will leave his position if the FSE is not approved. Cardoso said if his presence at the ministry is creating difficulties, he will leave.

## Bills Stalled in Congress

*PY0402195194 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 30 Jan 94 p A4*

[Article by Antonio Marcello]

[Text] Brasilia—International agreements, draft bills, provisional measures, presidential messages and vetoes: More than 200 bills are paralyzed in Congress, the Senate, and the Chamber of Deputies as a consequence of a permanent lack of quorum or of unresolved party negotiations. Without the bills being analyzed by the technical committees, there are 221 proposals on the agenda of the congressional chambers, an amount that increases daily with the arrival of new draft bills.

The situation became worse over the past few months with the Budget CPI [Congressional Investigating Committee], the fiscal reform, and the constitutional review. The paralyzation of the plenary halls, while discussions outside them became more heated, has created difficulties for both the executive and legislative branches. The Senate has managed to impose a minimum of discipline on the plenary by establishing a calendar of sessions, but surprises in voting sessions, like the one on the fiscal reform, have forced senators to hold meetings late into the evening.

Chamber of Deputies President Inocencio de Oliveira (PFL-PE) [Liberal Front Party-Pernambuco] insists on the approval in the lower house of a resolution establishing sessions every day of the week. A resolution is a legal measure on any internal issue in either of the two houses. Only one weekly session is being currently held; it is scheduled for Mondays—when the quorum is reduced to nearly zero which thus prevents voting on important subjects. Daily sessions will also serve as a parameter for the time the Constitution and Justice Committee (CCJ) will have to judge the congressmen whom the Budget CPI recommended be stripped of their political rights. Inocencio guarantees that this is not the reason behind his draft bill. "We have more than 70 draft bills on which to vote. The House cannot remain paralyzed," he maintained.

His draft bill was included in the agenda last 24 January, but a petition by PDT [Democratic Labor Party] leader Deputy Luiz Salomao (RJ) [Rio de Janeiro], and supported by the PT [Workers Party] and the PC do B [Communist Party of Brazil], postponed the voting session. The leaders want the subject to be further debated to avoid charges that the bill was placed on the agenda to reduce the period of defense of the deputies accused by the CPI. According to the internal regulations of the Chamber of Deputies, the term for their defense is five sessions. If these are weekly sessions, the judgment process will take much longer than was thought. Inocencio wants the bill approved on 31 January.

The executive branch also suffers from the delayed voting sessions. There are at least 14 draft bills in Congress establishing supplementary credits for ministries, like the Health Ministry, which are on the congressional agenda and ready to be voted on but which remain on the waiting list.

Among the 97 subjects to be discussed or voted on, and which are on the Congress agenda, are 17 draft bills, 22 resolutions, 14 provisional measures, and 44 decisions on executive branch vetoes. In the Senate there are 27 accumulated subjects: 7 draft bills, 10 resolutions, and 10 legislative decrees. The Chamber of Deputies has 97 bills: 19 urgent decisions, 56 draft bills, 5 resolutions, 10 legislative decrees, 1 message from the executive branch, and 6 preliminary resolutions on decisions suggested by technical committees.

Here are some of the subjects on the waiting list of Congress, the Senate, and the Chamber of Deputies:

### In Congress

A draft bill that establishes the revision of the Multi-Annual Plan for 1994 and 1995. It has been on the agenda since 7 November.

A draft bill that estimates the income and establishes the expenses of the Federal Government for fiscal year 1994. It has been on the agenda since 6 December.

A draft resolution that modifies the structure of the Mixed Committee of Public Plans, Budget, and Fiscal Control. It has been paralyzed since it was first read in Congress on 22 December 1991.

A draft resolution that creates the Permanent Mixed Committee for the Control of Illegal Drug Trafficking and Prevention of Drug Abuse. This has been paralyzed since it was first read on 10 March 1992.

A draft resolution that creates the Permanent Mixed Committee for Nuclear and Strategic Affairs. This has been paralyzed since it was presented for a vote in the Senate and the lower house in 1991.

### In the Senate

A draft bill approved by the Chamber of Deputies that suspends the effects of the resignation of congressman being investigated for lack of decorum.

A draft bill establishing the Brazilian Space Agency, which was approved by the Chamber of Deputies last year.

A draft bill proposed by Senator Mario Covas, which establishes the number of candidates for this year's elections in accordance with the proportional system.

A draft bill that prohibits state-owned companies from paying dividends or having profit-sharing programs based on the credit balance of the monetary correction account [saldo credor da conta de correcao monetaria]. It was approved by the Chamber of Deputies in 1992.

A congressional draft decree approving the text of the International Labor Organization convention on lodgings on board fishing vessels. The convention was signed in 1966 and has yet to be ratified by the Senate.

A congressional draft decree approving the text of the Inter-American Convention on Legal Conflicts Related to the Issuance of Checks, which was written in Montevideo in May 1979 and has yet to be ratified.

A congressional draft decree approving the text of the Inter-American Convention on International Restitution of Children, which was signed in Montevideo in July 1989.

### In the Chamber of Deputies

A draft bill establishing rules for the micro- and small enterprises, regarding differentiated and simplified treatment in the administrative, fiscal, social security, and labor fields. It has been under consideration since 1989.

A draft bill that makes it mandatory for attorney generals to participate in lawsuits involving disputes over land ownership. It has been under consideration since 1992.

A draft bill establishing rules for granting of legal assistance to destitute citizens. It has been under consideration since 1989.

A draft bill creating a free-trade area in Oiapoque County (Amapa State). It has been under consideration since 1990.

A congressional draft decree approving the text of the Agreement on Portuguese Language Spelling, which was signed in Lisbon in December 1990 and has yet to be ratified by Congress.

A congressional draft decree authorizing the holding of a plebiscite to reestablish the states of Guanabara and Rio de Janeiro. It has been under consideration since 1992.

A congressional draft decree that authorizes holding a plebiscite to create the states of Aripuana and Tapajos.

## Senator: 'Radical' Economic Measures Possible

*PY0402231594 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 4 Feb 94*

[Report by Beth Veloso from Congress]

[Text] Senator Pedro Simon, government leader in the Senate, said the government may adopt radical measures if the social emergency fund bill is not approved next week. He said today that the government may adopt strong measures with radical effects to curb inflation. He also said Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso may resign his post if Congress continues delaying a decision on the economic plan.

[Begin Simon recording] His argument is that if the bill is not approved all the government can do is return to what we all know, that is, strong measures like radical economic packages and the plans we already have lived through and whose results are known. He is capable of resigning if the bill is not approved. [end recording]

Sen. Pedro Simon said that in his speech to the nation on 7 February, Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso will make a final appeal to the congressmen to turn up in the plenary hall and assume their responsibility.

[Begin Simon recording] In his speech, the minister will explain the whole issue and he will call on congressmen to vote either in favor or against the bill. It would be fantastic if they vote against it because they would be rejecting a bill that, although it was prepared by Fernando Henrique Cardoso, was totally modified by Congress. Congress must give a reply. Do the congressmen agree that we must solve the public deficit? Do they agree that the government must stop borrowing money from the bank to pay interest it cannot pay? Don't you agree with this? The congressmen must approve the bill they modified. [end recording]

Sen. Pedro Simon said the government needs the social emergency fund bill to be approved on 8 February in order to honor its commitments to its international creditors and then be ratified on 10 March.

## Senator Says Comments 'Misinterpreted'

*PY0502234194 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 5 Feb 94*

[Text] Senator Pedro Simon, government leader in the Senate, says his comments on what could happen if Congress does not approve the creation of the social emergency fund bill, necessary for the stabilization plan, were misinterpreted.

Sen. Simon said he never talked about shock measures:

[Begin recording] The plan will be approved because, although it was prepared by Fernando Henrique Cardoso, it now belongs to Congress, which fully altered and modified it. This is why I maintain that the plan will be approved. If not, I believe Fernando Henrique might resign, but I cannot say there will be shock measures because I have no clue about this. [end recording]

## Government Corruption Investigating Committee Installed

*PY0402233994 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 4 Feb 94*

[Report by Renata Verisimo from Planalto Palace]

[Text] The committee that will investigate corruption in the executive branch was installed this morning in Planalto Palace. The committee, which was created last December through a decree, is headed by Federal Administration Secretary Romildo Canhim and made up of seven society representatives. The committee must investigate all the charges of corruption inside the Executive Branch.

Minister Romildo Canhim already has created an executive secretariat made up of several technical subgroups: personnel, budget, internal control, legislation, bids, and contracts. The starting point will be the Budget CPI's [Congressional Investigative Committee] final report, which actually prompted the creation of this new committee. The committee will investigate the involvement of Executive Branch employees in the budget mafia.

Minister Romildo Canhim said the committee will have to suggest legislative measures or other government actions to correct the mechanisms that currently exist within the public administration and that have been promoting corruption:

[Begin recording, in progress] ...as of today, a real picture, an X-ray, of the public administration system of authorizing funds. We must close the windows that favor corruption. [end recording]

The committee will send quarterly reports to President Itamar Franco to report on the status of the investigations. The committee is made up of professor Candido Mendes de Almeida, lawyer Daniel Quintela Brandao, businessman Emerson Kapaz, former Justices Evandro Gueiros Leite and Miguel Jeronimo Ferrante, retired Division General Francisco Batista de Torres Mello, and Modesto Cavalhosa, president of the Brazilian Attorneys Association's ethics court.

## Amorim Meets Cuba's Lage, Says Brazil Opposes U.S. Trade Embargo

*PY0402151494 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 4 Feb 94*

[Text] Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim has criticized the decision of certain countries to adopt unilateral measures which are not supported by international laws. Indirectly referring to the United States, the minister said measures like this harm the development of countries like Brazil and Cuba.

Amorim spoke during a meeting with Cuban Vice President Carlos Lage, who is currently visiting Brazil. Minister Amorim also confirmed that Brazil opposes the U.S. trade embargo against Cuba.

## Cuban Official Discusses U.S. Embargo, Succession

*PY0502022294 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 4 Feb 94 p A12*

[Interview with Carlos Lage, vice president of the Cuban Council of State, by unidentified O ESTADO correspondent, "this week" in Riberao Preto]

[Text] [O ESTADO] The United States is about to lift the 20-year-old embargo on Vietnam. Does Cuba see any indication that the embargo against it may be lifted in the short or medium term?

[Lage] We do not see that possibility nor any indication that the United States will lift the blockade against Cuba in the short term. That is an ignorant and criminal policy that cannot be maintained indefinitely while there increasingly are forces that express their rejection of the blockade.

[O ESTADO] The names of Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina and Raul Castro are mentioned as the strongest candidates to replace Fidel. You allegedly also are on the list.

[Lage] No. Raul Castro is on the list. He is vice president of the Council of State and second secretary of the party, and the one who would replace Fidel. Why think of his successor if the two are alive?

[O ESTADO] The Cuban regime seems to be implementing a transition rhythm different from that preferred by the United States and Cuban dissidents. Could you explain how this transition works and where it will lead?

[Lage] We are not engagin in a transition to capitalism. We are adapting our socialist economy to conditions abroad.

[O ESTADO] How are subjects like a multiparty system being dealt with?

[Lage] Our concept is of a single party. In Cuba, a party is not an electoral party that organizes itself to win or to participate in an election and then lacks power to organize or conduct society. From our point of view, a single party is more democratic. There are multiparty elections in many countries but barely 30 or 40 percent of the people participate in the elections so the winners have barely 30 or 40 percent of the votes.

[O ESTADO] Is it true that Fidel admires former President Collor?

[Lage] The truth is that Collor, while he was president, had a positive attitude toward Cuba and resisted U.S. pressures. We do not forget that.

### Workers Party Said To Be Assisting El Salvador's FMLN

*PY0502192494 Sao Paulo ISTOE in Portuguese 2 Feb 94 p 32*

[Article by Jayme Brener]

[Text] The star of the PT [Workers Party] is shining beyond the frontiers of our homeland. At the request of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN)—the leftist Salvadoran guerrilla group that has ended its armed struggle—two PT communications experts spent eight days in El Salvador advising Ruben Zamora, who will run for the presidency on the FMLN ticket on 15 March, on his election campaign. Sao Paulo reporters Jose Americo Dias and Dulce Cardoso were chosen by the PT International Affairs Secretariat to assist their Salvadoran comrades in everything from devising Zamora's campaign strategy to producing pamphlets, placards, and radio and television advertisements. Dias, 40—editor of the party newspaper BRASIL AGORA and radio and television coordinator of Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's presidential campaign in 1989—told ISTOE: "The PT constitutes a major political frame of reference for the left in El Salvador together with the Democratic Party of the Left—the former Italian PC [Communist Party], and the Party of the Democratic Revolution [PRD]—Mexico's leading opposition party." The Salvadoran Association for Freedom and Democracy, a nongovernmental organization linked to the Salvadoran left, defrayed the two journalists' travelling expenses. The advisers did not charge anything for their little help. They were so delighted with this experience that they are contemplating supporting other fellow parties in Latin America. Who would have ever imagined it—the left, which at the time of the Cold War was accused of exporting its revolution, is now exporting peaceful electoral support. "The Mexican PRD already has shown interest in this exchange of experience," said Dias.

Dias stated: "Our main objective in El Salvador was to lend a hand in the training of personnel for the election campaigns of Zamora, San Salvador mayoral candidate Shafick Handal, and leftist coalition deputies grouped around the FMLN. We also discussed the need to divide the campaign publishing pamphlets, specifically targeting the youth, intellectuals, peasants, and especially women." Public opinion surveys show that Zamora has very little backing among women.

The FMLN and the Salvadoran Army were fiercely engaged in a civil war that claimed nearly 75,000 victims from 1979 to 1992. An agreement signed by the guerrilla group and President Alfredo Cristiani—from the conservative Arena Party—two years ago spelled the end to fighting and transformed the FMLN into a legal party. The latest public opinion poll by the Technological University last December showed that 40.2 percent of people intend to vote for Armando Calderon Sol from the Arena Party while only 22.2 percent intend to do so for Zamora and 14.1 percent for Christian Democrat Fidel Chavez Mena. In light of the fact that Zamora and Chavez Mena have centered their campaign on criticism of the government's performance in the economic sphere, it is possible that they may join forces for a possible runoff.

Contrary to what happens in Brazil, there is no free air time for election campaigns in El Salvador. It has to be bought, and it is precisely on television spots [preceding word in English] that the Arena Party is obtaining its greatest success thanks to the help of U.S. experts in electoral marketing. Brazilian election campaigns have held a certain fascination for the FMLN for a long time. A former representative of the guerrilla group in Brazil, Gregorio Ernesto Zelayndia, exported to his country one of the keynotes of Bahia State elections, namely cavalcades [carreatas], which, as a matter of fact, have been quite successful in that small country of 5.5 million inhabitants.

Dias said: "The greatest problem confronting the FMLN is ceasing to be a guerrilla group and changing itself into a legal party. Carrying a rifle is not quite the same thing as going door to door canvassing for votes." The Technological University survey also shows that Salvadorans' overriding concern is crime. The crime rate soared in the wake of the civil war due to the demobilization of thousands of soldiers and guerrillas who do not have jobs. Banditry mingles with the action of extreme right death squads, which the peace agreement could not totally eliminate. The PT journalists were able to see this serious problem for themselves. As Dias commented, "every time we accompanied the former guerrilla leaders in their cars, they were escorted by bodyguards armed with machine guns," adding that "everything was normal so far, except that there were always spare weapons on the floor of the car in case the other passengers had to repel an attack."

### * DataFolha Poll Rates Governors in Major Capitals

*94SM0191B Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Jan 94 p 1-7*

[Article by Fernando Rodrigues: "Fleury's Popularity Topples to 19 Percent"]

[Text] Sao Paulo Governor Luiz Antonio Fleury Filho (PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party]) is in a touchy situation as he completes two years and nine months of his term. For the first time since the first poll was conducted 30 days after he took office, his rejection rating has jumped to 30 percent and now exceeds his approval rating (19 percent), according to a poll conducted in the capital of Sao Paulo State.

Governor Fleury found his approval rating (the number of respondents rating his performance "very good or good") beginning to fall after he had been in office one year and three months. At the time, the PMDB governor was enjoying a comfortable approval rating of 40 percent. That percentage dropped to 36 percent after one year and six months, 30 percent after one year and eight months, and 26 percent after two years and four months, and is now down to 19 percent.

The Sao Paulo governor is managing to maintain an "average" rating for his administration. Of those polled, 46 percent feel that the Fleury administration is "average." That percentage has ranged from 43 percent to 49 percent. The biggest surprise was actually the jump of 11 percentage points (from 19 to 30 percent) among Sao Paulo city voters who consider his administration "bad or very bad."

Fleury's rejection rating is the third largest among those of the 10 governors evaluated in the DataFolha poll. Fleury is outdone only by Leonel Brizola (PDT [Democratic Labor Party], Rio de Janeiro)—the champion, with 54 percent rating him "very bad"—and is technically neck to neck with Helio Garcia (independent, Minas Gerais), whose rejection rating was 31 percent.

### Magalhaes Improves, Gains on Ciro Gomes

Two years and nine months after taking office, Ceara Governor Ciro Gomes (PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party]) is still in first place as the governor receiving the best performance evaluation in his state's capital, according to the DataFolha poll conducted in 10 capitals on 16 and 17 December. In the opinion of 69 percent of Fortaleza's voters, Ciro's administration is "very good" or "good." The second-best performance was that of Bahia Governor Antonio Carlos Magalhaes (PFL [Liberal Front Party]), whose administration was rated "very good" or "good" by 67 percent of those polled.

Although belonging to different parties, Ciro Gomes and Antonio Carlos Magalhaes are two of the governors who have not spared the current federal administration their criticism. Another point of similarity is that they have always avoided attacking each other.

But whereas Gomes has remained at the 69-percent level—the same score he had in the previous poll, which evaluated the governors after two years and four months in office—Magalhaes is still climbing. The Bahia governor's popularity started soaring as soon as he took office. He began with a "very good/good" rating of 25 percent, and the curve has been moving almost constantly upward since then. He is up three percentage points since the last poll: from 64 to 67 percent.

Besides Gomes and Magalhaes, two other governors were approved by a majority: Pedro Pedrossian (PTB [Brazilian Labor Party], Mato Grosso do Sul) and Roberto Requiao (PMDB, Parana). Pedrossian had an approval rating of 54 percent, and Requiao's was 49 percent.

Five governors were rated "average" by the majority. They were Alceu Collares (PDT, Rio Grande do Sul), Vilson Kleinubing (PFL, Santa Catarina), Helio Garcia (independent, Minas Gerais), Luiz Antonio Fleury Filho (PMDB, Sao Paulo), and Joaquim Francisco (independent, Pernambuco). The ratings of two of those governors—Collares and Garcia—are almost unchanged from the previous poll.

The surprises in the group of "average" governors concerned Fleury, Joaquim Francisco, and Kleinubing. Joaquim Francisco's rejection rating fell dramatically—from 40 percent to 27 percent—while his rating as "very good" or "good" rose from 16 to 25 percent. The Pernambuco governor was rated "average" by 45 percent of those polled in Recife.

Vilson Kleinubing maintained his "average" rating (a slight drop from 50 to 47 percent), but his administration's rejection rating showed a large jump. In the view of 28 percent of those polled in Florianopolis, the governor's term has been "very bad" or "bad." The figure was 20 percent in the last poll. The number considering his administration "very good" or "good" also fell: from 25 to 20 percent.

### Brizola

Rio de Janeiro Governor Leonel Brizola (PDT) is still the poll's rejection champion. Of those polled in the city of Rio de Janeiro, 54 percent say that Brizola's administration is "very bad." The figure is down from 59 to 54 percent, but the difference is almost equal to the margin of error for that city.

But there are indications in DataFolha's poll that the reaction to Brizola among his voters in the state capital is changing. His approval rating ("very good/good") is up from 8 to 14 percent, and that is well above the margin of error. Despite that improvement, he still has the lowest approval rating of all the 10 governors evaluated.

Brizola, who is a potential candidate for president of the republic in this year's election, is showing signs of recovery in this new poll by DataFolha. Since the governor has the residual support of a group of voters regarded as being convinced Brizola supporters, it would seem that all he has to do is keep a low profile and he will regain the support of those voters.

**Performance of Governors***

| The three best ("very good/good"): | | The three worst ("bad/very bad"): | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Name and state | Percent | Name and state | Percent |
| Ciro Gomes (Ceara) | 69 | Leonel Brizola (Rio de Janeiro) | 54 |
| Antonio Carlos Magalhaes (Bahia) | 67 | Helio Garcia (Minas Gerais) | 31 |
| Pedro Pedrossian (Mato Grosso do Sul) | 54 | Luiz Antonio Fleury Filho (Sao Paulo) | 30 |

* Single answers to the questions asked.

**Performance of Governors by State (in percentages)**

| Name | State | Party | Very good/good | Average | Bad/very bad | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ciro Gomes | Ceara | PSDB | 69 | 21 | 5 | 4 |
| Antonio Carlos Magalhaes | Bahia | PFL | 67 | 27 | 6 | 1 |
| Pedro Pedrossian | Mato Grosso do Sul | PTB | 54 | 32 | 6 | 8 |
| Roberto Requiao | Parana | PMDB | 49 | 35 | 12 | 4 |
| Joaquim Francisco | Pernambuco | independent | 25 | 45 | 27 | 4 |
| Alceu Collares | Rio Grande do Sul | PDT | 22 | 48 | 28 | 3 |
| Vilson Kleinubing | Santa Catarina | PFL | 20 | 47 | 28 | 4 |
| Luiz Antonio Fleury Filho | Sao Paulo | PMDB | 19 | 46 | 30 | 4 |
| Helio Garcia | Minas Gerais | independent | 17 | 47 | 31 | 5 |
| Leonel Brizola | Rio de Janeiro | PDT | 14 | 28 | 54 | 4 |

### Understanding the Methodology

The DataFolha poll is a survey by stratified sampling based on sex and age quotas. This poll, which was conducted on 16 and 17 December, consisted of interviews with 1,076 individuals in Sao Paulo, 646 in Rio de Janeiro, 432 in Belo Horizonte, 432 in Salvador, 432 in Porto Alegre, 432 in Curitiba, 431 in Florianopolis, 432 in Fortaleza, 428 in Recife, and 431 in Campo Grande.

The margin of error for the sampling process is plus or minus 3 percentage points in the city of Sao Paulo, 4 percentage points in Rio de Janeiro, and 5 percentage points in the other cities.

DataFolha is headed by sociologists Antonio Manuel Teixeira Mendes and Gustavo Venturi. Their assistants are Mauro Francisco Paulino, Emilia de Franco, and statistician Renata Nunes Cesar. Wilson Aganathios Chammas coordinates the opinion polls with his assistant Ailton Gobira. The sample was planned by Sandra Regina Dorgan. Solange Rodrigues handled the data processing.

## Chile

### Carabineros Director Comments on Human Rights Report

*PY0502140494 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 5 Feb 94*

[Excerpt] Carabineros Director General Rodolfo Stange has rejected the allegations of an international report in which Chile is listed as one of the countries where human rights are still being violated. Stange refused to comment at length on a recent report on this subject.

[Begin recording, in progress] [Stange] ...something else. Furthermore, the foreign minister said yesterday that he was studying and assessing the report in order to make a decision. Therefore, since the Foreign Ministry is already taking care of the matter, anything I could say would be out of place.

[Question indistinct]

[Stange] In any case I reject these...these groundless charges from a foreign country which does not [changes thought]...which has, let us say, other problems to deal with. [end recording] [passage omitted]

### Aylwin Accepts Codelco Executive Manager's Resignation

*PY0602023194 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Feb 94*

[Text] Alejandro Noemi tendered his resignation as Codelco [Copper Corporation] executive manager, which was accepted by President Patricio Aylwin at Cerro Castillo Palace this morning.

Alejandro Noemi leaves his post as top leader of the most important Chilean enterprise exactly 10 days after the scandal affecting Codelco was made public.

The first indications of his pending resignation appeared yesterday when the report on the investigation headed by

Noemi himself stated that the Codelco executive manager was mainly responsible for the disaster caused by Juan Pablo Davila.

This morning, however, nobody thought Noemi would tender his resignation today. This morning everything seemed normal at Codelco. Executive Vice President Maximo Pacheco was the only one to enter Codelco offices on Huerfanos Street.

Outside the building some workers were mopping up the eggs thrown yesterday by a group of pensioners.

The calm atmosphere did not last long. The announcement made at 1300 by Interior Minister Enrique Krauss unleashed a storm.

[Begin Krauss recording] Today Alejandro Noemi Callejas tendered his resignation as Codelco executive manager. The president of the Republic has decided to accept his resignation even though he will place this information at the disposal of Codelco management, which will make the final decision on the subject. [end recording]

From then on the media frenetically searched for the resigning manager and did not find Noemi until 1700 as he arrived home from Cerro Castillo.

[Begin recording] [Noemi] I think I have done what I had to do following this disaster. We have completed the investigation and I think it is clear...[changes thought] you saw it and learned about its contents yesterday. Moreover, the necessary measures have been taken. The path to be followed has been defined in order to administer these losses. I do hope the losses will drop. I have done my duty to show my face, as you have seen during these past few days, and there is no point in me remaining at Codelco after this regretful episode. It is very hard to continue at the head of an enterprise... I can no longer show face.

[Unidentified reporter] How do you feel having to resign for a mistake you did not make?

[Noemi] Such is life. I am very sorry. I am very sad and do not feel as calm as I look. I am very sad, very sorry. It will be very sad to be remembered as manager of this enterprise because of this mistake. [end recording]

Noemi added that despite the modernization carried out within Codelco these past four years there is still a lot to be done, and proof of this is the disaster caused by Juan Pablo Davila.

Noemi said that in the future the enterprise must be more agile. He also was asked whether he will receive indemnization.

[Begin recording] [Noemi] Yes, I am entitled to it, but I am not going to accept it, not because I feel guilty but rather because I am too hurt to even think about it or think that someone may misinterpret it. Yes, I am entitled to it; it is part of my pay. I believe I have done a good job at Codelco and hope this will be noticed with time.

[Reporter] How do you feel about the fact that the other three Codelco managers did accept indemnization?

[Noemi] I feel it was a major mistake, a major mistake, and hope they will return it. [end recording]

Noemi's resignation should be ratified on 7 February by Codelco management, which also must accept the president of the Republic's proposal that current Finance Under Secretary Jorge Rodriguez head the most important Chilean enterprise for the next 37 days.

## Five Carabineros Officers Promoted to General

*PY0402145194*

[Editorial Report] Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish on 16 January carries on page 18 a 400-word unattributed article reporting the promotion of five Carabineros officers to the rank of general. The article says General Osvaldo Munoz Sanhueza, who was promoted to the rank of general inspector, joined the Carabineros in March 1960. He is a mountain and border specialist, instructor, and pilot.

The article adds that General Julio Reuse Rodriguez, who joined the Carabineros in April 1963, becomes chief of the Superior Advisory Council.

The article then notes that General Luis Sueyras Moore joined the Carabineros in 1964. He is a border and mountain specialist, and an English and French translator. He becomes chief of the Carabineros 2d Zone in Valparaiso.

General Cesar Delgado Estrada, a border and mountain specialist, becomes chief of the Carabineros 1st Zone.

The article concludes by saying that General Carlos Dondero becomes chief of the Carabineros 8th Zone in Arica.

## Peruvian Congress Refusal To Ratify Convention Criticized

*PY0502175494 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 5 Feb 94*

[Text] Deputy Jorge Pizarro, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, has stated that it is neither reasonable nor proper to say that Chilean-Peruvian relations are risky. This was Pizarro's reaction to a report from the Libertad Institute.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Marcela Torrejon] Jorge Pizarro, deputy for the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] and chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, has stated that the Libertad Institute's claim that relations between Chile and Peru are risky is unreasonable. The Institute, which has ties with the opposition National Renewal Party, released a document stating that Chilean-Peruvian relations were risky because the Peruvian Constituent Congress does not want to ratify the Lima Convention which the Aylwin and Fujimori administrations had signed to resolve certain matters that the 1929 peace and friendship treaty had left pending.

Deputy Pizarro believes that the relations between Peru and Chile are good and pose no political or commercial risks. He emphasized certain landmarks in the process of rapprochement, such as Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori's visit to Chile and the fact that he will also attend President-elect Eduardo Frei's inauguration in March.

Pizarro acknowledged that after the plebiscite and in light of the approaching elections, the discussion of the Lima Convention has awakened nationalistic predjudices which deserve respect because in Chile too there are people who have this kind of prejudice. He stressed, however, that in Chile this issue has always been left in the hands of the state.

[Pizarro] The important thing is to strengthen the role of the state in setting the course for Chile's foreign policy toward its neighbors. In this context the report of the Libertad Institute could be misinterpreted.

[Torrejon] Deputy Pizarro explained that the Chilean Congress believes that the Lima Convention should be ratified. This is not the case with the Peruvian Constituent Congress, where the majority opposes the ratification of the convention.

[Pizarro] We do not believe that it is appropriate for Congress, be it Peruvian or Chilean, to revise or amend an agreement which has already been signed by the foreign ministers of both countries. Thus, I disagree with the proposal of Mr. Victor Joy Way, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Peruvian Constituent Congress, because I feel that he has taken the wrong approach to the matter which is delaying ratification of the agreement, and is sending signals that contradict President Fujimori's stated will to get the convention approved.

[Torrejon] According to Deputy Pizarro, the explanations wielded by the Peruvian Constituent Congress in its attempt to deny approval for the convention which the Aylwin and Fujimori administrations have already signed are improper. [end recording]

### Agreement Reached With Bolivia on Fight Against Narcotics

*PY0702120394 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 7 Feb 94*

[Text] During a meeting in La Paz, Bolivia, to discuss the struggle against drug trafficking, Chilean and Bolivian Government representatives agreed to exchange information on juridical affairs, customs, drug trafficking and the prevention of drug abuse, and social rehabilitation programs.

Gustavo Villalobos, secretary of the Chilean National Council for Drug Control, noted that the level of cooperation between the two countries is very high even though they do not maintain diplomatic relations.

Villalobos added that the bilateral cooperation efforts to fight trafficking also benefit other countries in the region.

Bolivian Social Defense Secretary Marcos Solis said the struggle against trafficking requires considerable international solidarity.

The two countries agreed to exchange judicial resolutions and letters rogatory. The representatives also discussed the possibility of extraditing traffickers.

## Colombia

### Gaviria Says U.S. Troops' Presence No Violation of Constitution

*PA0602041294 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1737 GMT 5 Feb 94*

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 5 Feb (EFE)—Colombian President Cesar Gaviria has said the presence of the U.S. soldiers in Colombian territory does not violate the country's Constitution, because there is no transit of troops and their mission is to provide technical assistance and do engineering work.

Gaviria, in a letter sent to the State Council, which has asked him for explanations, has said the presence of U.S. military personnel on the Pacific Coast and in the eastern plains is in accordance with international treaties that have been formally accepted by Colombia in the past.

In a long document, Gaviria rehashes the legal evolution of the international law and the Colombian legislation, saying the operations of mutual defense and military assistance do not require authorization from the Senate or State Council.

Gaviria refers to the work by the U.S. soldiers at the beach town of Juanchaco (Valle Del Cauca Department), where they are building a school, a medical center, and a road, and in Puerto Lopez (Meta Department), where they are building a river port.

"The U.S. soldiers are not in the country to execute warlike activities against third parties," but their presence is in accordance with agreements for technical cooperation to supply logistic support so that the Colombian authorities may fight crime, he adds.

### Liberal Party Candidate Assails Presence

*PA0602190894 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 6 Feb 94*

[From the "NTC" newscast]

[Text] Ernesto Samper, the Liberal Party presidential hopeful with the best chance of winning the election, is ready to fight against the presence of U.S. soldiers in Juan Chaco.

When referring to the presence of U.S. troops in Juan Chaco, Ernesto Samper Pizano said President Cesar Gaviria allowed the U.S. Government to pull a fast one on him. During a visit to Buenaventura in Valle del Cauca Department, Samper said the gringos are better tourists than builders of schools, and he added that, if elected president of Colombia, he would not allow the nation's sovereignty to be violated in this way.

[Begin Samper recording] We do not need foreign soldiers to build schools or roads, much less in this region where we have twice as much unemployment as the rest of the country. What we need are public works projects that put our own people to work. I believe the U.S. Government or the Defense Ministry has pulled a fast one on President Gaviria. [end recording]

Samper also said there is a need to integrate the Pacific region into the nation's development plans.

### Guerrillas Blamed for Attacks

*PA0602191594 Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 4 Feb 94 p 14A*

[Text] A wave of terrorist attacks in Medellin on 3 February has caused property damage but no fatalities or injuries. Authorities attribute the attacks to urban guerrillas.

Colonel Daniel Peralta, subcommander of the Medellin Metropolitan Police, said four bombs exploded during the day and three were deactivated in a wave of attacks perpetrated by guerrilla commandos against U.S. companies. Col. Peralta said the attacks were made on a stationery store, two educational centers, and a construction site near a bus terminal.

"The bombs, each made with 3 kg of dynamite, exploded at an English language school, a German language school, and a travel agency. Two other bombs were deactivated at the Citibank and Diner's Club main offices," Col. Peralta reported.

He added that the most serious incident occurred at the "El Ancla" stationery store, located in downtown Medellin, where the explosion started a fire causing damage estimated at 20 million pesos.

According to reports, the blast caused millions of dollars in property damage due to shattered windows and glass doors and a fire, which started in one of the offices that was attacked, but there were no fatalities.

"The attacks were perpetrated by guerrilla commandos protesting the presence of U.S. troops in Colombia," Col. Peralta said. Authorities attribute the bomb attacks to guerrillas from the Army of National Liberation and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, which declared U.S. companies and citizens living in Colombia military targets to protest the presence of U.S. soldiers in Colombia.

Currently, there are 249 U.S. soldiers in Colombia working on humanitarian and social assistance projects, training programs, and the installation of radars for the fight against drug trafficking.

The largest group, 156 soldiers, are building a school, a hospital, and a road in the town of Juanchaco, in Valle del Cauca Department. The other units are constructing a military base in Puerto Lopez, Meta Department.

A week ago, rebels blew up two Mormon churches and a Coca Cola plant in the city of Bucaramanga, and kidnapped two missionaries in eastern Colombia.

### FARC Claims Responsibility for 'Terrorist' Escalation

*PA0502035694 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1848 GMT 3 Feb 94*

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 3 Feb (DPA)—A commando unit of the communist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) has claimed responsibility for the latest terrorist escalation that took place this morning in the northwestern Colombian city of Medellin.

The subversives sent a clandestine communique to Medellin radio stations, justifying the planting of explosives at U.S. facilities to reject the presence of U.S. troops in Colombia.

Four bombs exploded at Citibank branches and at an English academy in several Medellin locations. Meanwhile, the police defused three other explosive devices.

The FARC said the presence of U.S. soldiers harms Colombian interests; thus, it is exerting pressure for their immediate departure.

About 250 U.S. soldiers are building bases in Puerto Lopez, Meta Department, and in Araracuara, Amazonas Department, to detect drug traffickers' planes. In addition, the troops are building a school, a health center, and a road in Juanchaco, in the western Valle del Cauca Department.

Mauricio Navas Talero, a former Attorney General's Office high-ranking official, filed a petition today for protection, a judicial mechanism used to protect constitutional rights, requesting the departure of foreign soldiers.

Navas explained the Colombian Constitution does not empower the president "to tolerate, consent, or allow the entry of foreign troops in the country." This would be acceptable if the Council of State issued an authorization.

He added "to defend this constitutional right, I am asking the courts to urge President Cesar Gaviria to order the immediate departure of the troops."

Judicial sources have said the courts will issue a ruling on the petition for protection within 10 days.

### Army Seizes Arms, Ammunition Intended for ELN

*PA0602231394 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 4 Feb 94 p 8a*

[Text] Cucuta—On Wednesday the Army frustrated a terrorist plan prepared by the Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CGR) when the 5th Mechanized Group, based in Cucuta, seized a large amount of arms and ammunition intended for the ELN [Army of National Liberation].

According to the version given by military detachment commander Colonel Henry Dominguez, the seizure dismantled a major part of the CGR's logistical structure tasked with supplying arms and quartermaster supplies to the various groups who operate in the Departments of Santander and Norte de Santander, the southern part of Cesar Department, and Bolivar Department.

The operation began at 0500 [1000 GMT] on 2 February and ended 12 hours later. Alfredo Angarita Torres, "Hermes," logistic wing leader of the northeastern war front; Jesus Emilio Ovalle Rodriguez, "Chucho;" and sisters Angelina and Barbara Perez Duran were captured in house No. 3-77 on 21st Avenue, in the Tasajero neighborhood.

### CGSB Unit Attacks Military Base in Medellin

*PA0702035994 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0224 GMT 7 Feb 94*

[Text] Medellin (Colombia), 6 Feb (DPA)—Military sources informed DPA that tonight a commando unit of the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CGSB) attacked a Colombian Army base on the outskirts of the northwestern city of Medellin.

From positions in surrounding buildings and in the Medellin metro (under construction), some 20 snipers fired repeatedly at the Palermo Battalion installations, located in the densely populated Aranjuez sector. An elite Army corps known as the "men of steel" is trained at this base. Its members are tasked with patrolling Medellin's poorest neighborhoods, where crime has been rampant for the past few years.

Precisely in one of these neighborhoods today a clandestine armed group known as the "People's Militia"—which was devoted to meting out "private justice"—announced its disbandment. The "People's Militias" are accused of having committed hundreds of crimes against criminals, vagrants, and drug addicts who roam the streets of Medellin's poorest sectors. The Army's "men of steel" not only patrol these areas; they also help build schools, health care centers, and day care centers, and perform other social works.

The Army High Command has not issued any statement regarding the attack on this battalion, and there have been no reports regarding casualties.

### Medellin Cartel Members Offer Deal to Pepes Organization

*PA0602212494 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1739 GMT 6 Feb 94*

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 6 Feb (NOTIMEX)—The military chiefs of the weakened Medellin Cartel in Colombia are willing to negotiate a peace agreement with the enemies of that dreadful organization to prevent their total extermination, the local press revealed today.

According to EL TIEMPO, during the past 70 days the survivors of the Medellin Cartel who are currently in jail have unsuccessfully sent letters to their emissaries in Cali, the country's third largest city, seeking a peace agreement with the Mafia in that region.

Some time ago, the clandestine group "Pepes" [Persecuted by Pablo Escobar], reportedly made up of members of the Cali Cartel, announced it would reactivate its struggle against the men of slain drug trafficker Pablo Escobar until all the members of the once powerful organization are exterminated.

"Afraid of what could happen to them—after Escobar's death—the terrorist chiefs of the Medellin Cartel have offered to pay their debts in jail and for the first time have considered the possibility of dismantling whatever is left of their armed redoubts," the newspaper said. "In exchange, they have requested respect for their relatives' lives and negotiations for their money and properties," with Pablo Escobar's widow Maria Victoria Henao.

Since its creation a year ago, "Pepes" has killed more than 50 of Pablo Escobar's men and destroyed some 30 properties belonging to the Medellin Cartel. According to the police, the hunt for the survivors of the Medellin Cartel who are free has continued after Escobar's death and this is keeping the people related to this organization in a state of fear. The source said that "the authorities have evidence related to the killing of several cartel agents in Medellin one week ago."

One of Escobar's trusted men has said: "Either we kneel or they kill us all." This man has confirmed that the terrorist chiefs of the cartel are making efforts to secure a peace agreement with their enemies.

## * Meeting With Cali Cartel Attorneys Described

*94WD0178Z Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 16 Jan 94 p 17A*

[Article: "Cali Surrender Stalled"]

[Text] On Tuesday afternoon, after several high-level meetings, President Cesar Gaviria telephoned the DAS [Administrative Department of Security] director, Fernando Brito, to request his presence at the meeting with the attorneys of two presumed traffickers from Valle. It was due to be held the following day at the office of the prosecutor general of the nation, Gustavo de Greiff.

What the president wanted was to establish his position on the policy of surrender, after rumors citing previous talks in which the presumed drug traffickers requested house arrest during certain phases of the surrender process.

However, what most concerned Gaviria was the fact that the matter of confession apparently had not yet been clearly explained during the previous talks with the attorneys of Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela and Julio Fabio Urdinola.

For those reasons, the president decided to send Justice Minister Andres Gonzalez and the DAS director to the meeting at the prosecutor general's office.

The fact is that, until that Wednesday, 12 January, the talks had been conducted through the prosecutor general and the attorney general of the nation, Carlos Gustavo Arrieta, who, in turn, were reporting to the government. Nevertheless, in December the president decided to take part in the matter and, at several meetings between De Greiff and the justice minister, agreement had already been reached on the government's presence at the meeting planned for early January. By that time, a tentative date had been set, but the exact day and time had not been decided.

On 11 January, Gonzalez, with the prosecutor general and attorney general, confirmed the date and time of the meeting: Wednesday, 12 January, at 1500.

When Brito and Gonzalez arrived, the prosecutor general and attorney general were already conferring with the drug traffickers' attorneys. Some tension was felt there, due mainly to the presence of the DAS director, because only the minister was expected. Moreover, the fact of not knowing in advance who was going to attend apparently annoyed the prosecutor general, according to one source.

Then, with the attorneys, the determination was made that this was an informal meeting, and it was agreed that, when the surrender processes actually began, each government department would play its part. In other words, they would be judicial proceedings that no one from the government would have any reason to attend.

### The Meeting Began

Finally, at 1510, the meeting began.

First, one of the lawyers took the floor, stating that it was Rodriguez's and Urdinola's desire to surrender based on the expedient of house arrest, in the course of a process that should culminate in one result, either: dismissal of all charges or sentencing to a prison term.

The next to speak was Minister Gonzalez. The official explained to the attorneys the design of the surrender policy, indicating that anyone who surrenders must have a real willingness to submit to a process, to collaborate effectively with the authorities, and to confess his criminal activities.

Nevertheless, the traffickers' lawyers used the argument that it was very important to their clients not to make a mandatory confession. They noted that it was the intention of the two presumed traffickers to submit to a trial without meeting that requirement. The justice minister, for his part, claimed that a surrender and repentance did not suffice.

The other attorney intervened, also declaring that what the two presumed drug traffickers wanted was to have the information supplied by them to break up the Medellin Cartel taken into account in their case.

However, according to sources queried by EL TIEMPO, that decision is incumbent solely on Prosecutor General De Greiff, who must assess the veracity of those reports, which could become a part of the government's policy on collaboration.

After the remarks, the DAS director spoke, claiming that the government did not consider house arrest part of the surrender policy. He added that anything other than the terms of that program was not associated with the state's position.

The two lawyers, somewhat shocked, commented that such blunt, clear talk was quite positive, making it possible to obtain information on the government's thinking. Furthermore, they said that, from this standpoint, the process could not continue until they first consulted with their clients.

Prosecutor General De Greiff then remarked that the decision on house arrest was a judicial determination, but the DAS director reaffirmed the negative position on house arrest.

Specifically, the official declared that the government did not interpret the policy of surrender in that way, and that the issue being treated had to be viewed clearly.

Gonzalez, for his part, claimed that they were not dealing with any criminal organization or common crimes, and that, for the persons under discussion and the crimes with which they were charged, it was impossible to seek house arrest.

Finally, Brito asserted that the government would not, under any circumstances, permit house arrest, among other reasons, because its implementation would have no acceptance on the international level.

After 1700, when the two government officials concluded their remarks, De Greiff declared the informal meeting adjourned, and remained in a hearing with the attorneys.

According to the government, the essence of the matter is that various conditions must be met for the process to continue: imposition and effective serving of adequate sentences in regular jails, and real, effective collaboration with the administration of justice. In other words, the state must be allowed to solve crimes and to sentence those judicially culpable.

Hence, in the government's opinion, the surrender of the Cali Cartel members is muddled, for the present; because it is assumed that they will not fully accept the surrender policy. However, a second meeting has already been arranged; and, as one government official aptly observed: "All is not lost."

## Domestic Coffee Price Increases Announced

*PA0702004694 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Feb 94*

[From the "National" newscast]

[Text] The new coffee price has been set from today. The agreement to set the domestic price was reached in the pre-dawn hours today following 15 hours of heated arguments. In the end the price [carga] went from 105,000 pesos to 120,000 pesos [unit not given].

Tired after fighting for so many hours, negotiators emerged at 0330 with the news. The price of coffee went from 105,000 pesos to 120,000 pesos, effective today. Of this amount, 103,000 pesos will be paid in cash and 17,000 in coffee savings bonds. It was a 14.28 percent readjustment.

[Begin Finance Minister Rudolf Hommes recording] The government decided to give in and accepted this large increase—more than a 30 percent increase since August 1993. In real terms, this is a gigantic increase since August. [end recording]

Even though the government, led by President Gaviria, made an all-out effort, the coffee growers replied with resignation.

[Begin Jorge Cardenas, manager of the National Federation of Coffee Growers, recording] This was the best price obtainable in the present circumstances. We sincerely believe this is a very good price when you take into account the current international market. [end recording]

Everything seems to indicate that this will be the last adjustment this administration will make. In October, when a new increase is expected, the coffee growers will possibly have to speak on different terms.

## Coffee Growers Dissatisfied

*PA0702005594 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Feb 94*

[From the "National" newscast]

[Text] Despite the much-awaited coffee price increase, coffee growers are not satisfied and insist that the 120,000 pesos [unit not given] do not even cover production costs.

[Begin recording] [Coffee grower Alfonso Lopez] I see this as something wicked by the government, because it is a well-known fact that this price will never cover costs.

[Coffee grower Jairo Barragan] The price the government has just set is not what we coffee growers expected. We are demanding a 30 percent increase to make this profitable.

[Coffee grower Manuel Hernandez] It does not make up for the costs involved, especially when you take into account the stalk borer plague.

[Coffee grower Aurelio Suarez] The truth is that this government was unable to resolve the coffee problem.

[Unidentified reporter] What are you going to do now?

[Coffee grower Jose Acosta] Go hungry. What use is this increase?

[Coffee grower Enrique Angel Mejia] We are disenchanted and worried about the new coffee prices because to balance out production costs and income the increase should have been at least double. [end recording]

## * Attitudes Toward Gaviria, Country's Problems Surveyed

*94SM0199A Santa Fe de Bogota SEMANA in Spanish 11 Jan 94 pp 42-55*

[Excerpts] As it has every year since 1988, this year SEMANA contracted for a poll aimed at learning the opinion of Colombians regarding some 20 issues. It compared the results with those from previous polls, in order to analyze the people's changing views on these matters.

For this purpose, it contracted the services of the Gallup Colombia firm, which collected the information between 3 and 13 December 1993: in other words, during the 10 days following Pablo Escobar's death. That event had unquestionable implications for the general attitude and mind-set of Colombians. The poll was taken at 100 sampling points in Bogota, Medellin, Cali, and Barranquilla, among 1,000 men and women over age 18, belonging to the three social classes.

On this occasion, SEMANA attempted to make use of the information accumulated during the six years of polling, to compare the changes in opinion.

**Outstanding Person of the Year**

**Who do you think is the outstanding Colombian personality of 1993? (figures are percentages)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Pablo Escobar | 25 |
| Cesar Gaviria Trujillo | 16 |
| Carlos Vives [popular singer] | 8 |
| Gustavo de Greiff | 5 |
| Faustino Asprilla [soccer player] | 5 |
| Noemi Sanin | 2 |
| Andres Pastrana | 2 |
| Carlos Valderrama [soccer player] | 2 |
| Ernesto Samper | 1 |
| Antonio Navarro | 1 |
| Gabriel Garcia | 1 |
| Francisco Maturana | 1 |
| Rudolf Hommes | 1 |
| Colombian Soccer Team | 1 |
| Carolina Gomez | 1 |
| Other persons | 9 |
| Don't know | 21 |

Because the poll was taken during the days following the death of Pablo Escobar, the "capo's" image receives a high degree of mention among those polled, exceeding President Gaviria, with whom he shared first place a year ago. As an odd note, Carlos Vives appears in third place, ahead of Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff, soccer player Faustino Asprilla, and the best known political leaders. Noemi Sanin is by far the leader among the women in this ranking.

**How Gaviria Is Faring**

**All things considered, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way in which Cesar Gaviria is performing as president of the republic? (figures are percentages)**

| | Satisfied | Dissatisfied | Don't know/no opinion |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dec 1992 | 22 | 71 | 7 |
| Dec 1993 | 44 | 49 | 8 |

It is indisputable that 1993, with its economic results and the death of Pablo Escobar, was the year of the recovery of the president's image. Nevertheless, the indicator obtained last December is lower than those recorded in 1991 when, after Escobar's surrender and the approval of the Constitution, Gaviria's performance attained degrees of satisfaction exceeding 65 percent.

**Gaviria's Reelection**

**If Cesar Gaviria should run again as a candidate for the presidency, what is the likelihood of your voting for him? (figures are percentages)**

| | Would vote for him | Wouldn't vote for him | Don't know/no opinion |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dec 1991* | 59 | 35 | 6 |
| Dec 1992 | 13 | 80 | 7 |
| Dec 1993 | 23 | 68 | 9 |

* National Consulting Center poll in the five major cities

In this question as well, one can perceive that the recovery of the president's image is a long way from the popularity levels of 1991, when 59 percent declared themselves willing to reelect him.

**The Most Serious Problem**

**In your judgment, what is Colombia's most serious problem at present? (figures are percentages)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Climate of Insecurity | 26 |
| Unemployment | 15 |
| Violence | 14 |
| Guerrillas/Public Order | 10 |
| Corruption | 9 |

**In your judgment, what is Colombia's most serious problem at present? (figures are percentages) (Continued)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Drug Trafficking | 7 |
| Poverty | 4 |
| Economy | 3 |
| Drug Addiction | 3 |
| Cost of Living | 3 |
| Education | 1 |
| Foreign Debt | 1 |
| Waste Disposal | 1 |
| Other Problems | 5 |

It is interesting to note that insecurity is currently considered the most serious problem by far, having displaced the guerrillas and violence combined, which had traditionally led in this ranking. The higher ranking of the corruption problem is also significant, now registering 9 percent, compared with only 1 percent the previous year.

**In your view, which is more serious at present: the guerrillas or drug trafficking? (figures are percentages)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Guerrillas | 34 |
| Drug trafficking | 20 |
| Both equally serious | 43 |
| Don't know | 3 |

**In your view, which is most serious at present: the guerrillas, drug trafficking, or corruption in the public sector? (figures are percentages)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Corruption | 46 |
| Guerrillas | 11 |
| Drug trafficking | 9 |
| All three equally | 33 |
| Don't know | 1 |

Just as last year, the guerrillas are being regarded as a more serious problem than drug trafficking. However, when corruption is included among the options, it wins by a wide margin: something that never happened in the past.

### Guerrillas and Armed Forces

**What should the government do about the guerrillas? (figures are percentages)**

| | Combat them militarily | Hold dialogue with them | Both | Don't know/no opinion |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dec 1992 | 53 | 38 | 6 | 3 |
| Dec 1993 | 39 | 51 | 6 | 4 |

When this question was asked at the end of 1992, the cruel guerrilla offensive that had begun with a massacre of policemen in Putumayo was just being unleashed. This could explain why, last December, that question again produced the traditional results, showing that Colombians favor dialogue with the guerrillas. Nevertheless, this 51 percent supporting dialogue falls far short of the 72 percent obtained by the National Consulting Center in a poll taken during December 1991 in the five major cities.

**Do you think that the Armed Forces' ability to defeat the guerrillas is better, equal to, or less than it was a year ago? (figures are percentages)**

| | Better | Equal | Less | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dec 1992 | 41 | 30 | 23 | 6 |
| Dec 1993 | 51 | 27 | 16 | 6 |

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Those polled think that the Armed Forces have improved their capacity to combat the guerrillas. This means that, if the majority now support dialogue, it is because they believe in a political solution, and not because they consider the guerrillas invincible.

### Drug Consumption

**Have you tried any of the following drugs?**

| Date | Percentage of positive responses | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Marijuana | Cocaine | Basuco |
| Nov 1990* | 5.2 | 1.3 | 2 |
| Dec 1993 | 8 | 3 | 2 |

* National Consulting Center poll of Nov 1990

[passage omitted]

### Degree of Happiness and Optimism

**In general, all things considered, how happy do you feel? (figures are percentages)**

| | Very | Not very | Not at all |
|---|---|---|---|
| Nov 1990** | 43 | 44 | 13 |
| Dec 1991* | 69 | 29 | 2 |
| Dec 1992 | 63 | 34 | 3 |
| Dec 1993 | 75 | 23 | 2 |

* National Consulting Center poll in the five major cities

** National Consulting Center poll in 20 cities

Last December, just after Pablo Escobar's death, the country registered its highest degree of happiness, at least for the past four years. Three-quarters of those polled declared themselves "very happy," compared with 63 percent a year before. The November 1990 figure, which revealed a high rate of unhappiness, should be read carefully, because it relates to a poll taken in 20 large, medium, and small cities, and is not readily comparable to a poll taken in the four capitals. Nevertheless, it indicated a very high degree of dissatisfaction among Colombians with their lives.

**Would you say that your life, compared to that led by your parents, is better, the same, or worse? (figures are percentages)**

| | Better | Same | Worse | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nov 1990** | 49 | 10 | 39 | 2 |
| Dec 1991* | 72 | 12 | 15 | 1 |
| Dec 1992 | 44 | 19 | 36 | 1 |
| Dec 1993 | 53 | 19 | 26 | 2 |

* National Consulting Center poll in the five major cities

** National Consulting Center poll in 20 cities

In this question, one can see the same positive state of mind in December 1993 as in previous years. The difference from 1992 (the year of Escobar's escape) is considerable.

**Do you believe that your children's lives will be better than, the same as, or worse than yours? (figures are percentages)**

| | Better | Same | Worse | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nov 1990** | 39 | 11 | 44 | 6 |
| Dec 1991* | 45 | 13 | 38 | 4 |

**Do you believe that your children's lives will be better than, the same as, or worse than yours? (figures are percentages) (Continued)**

| | Better | Same | Worse | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dec 1992 | 31 | 10 | 53 | 6 |
| Dec 1993 | 41 | 11 | 40 | 7 |

* National Consulting Center poll in the five major cities

** National Consulting Center poll in 20 cities

Just as at the end of 1991, the optimism regarding the lives that the children will lead is slightly greater than the pessimism. Again, one notes a significant difference from the previous year, when the degree of pessimism among Colombians appeared high.

### Economic Situation and Openness

**Compared with a year ago, do you feel that your economic situation is better, the same, or worse? (figures are percentages)**

| | Better | Same | Worse |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dec 1992 | 33 | 35 | 32 |
| Dec 1993 | 46 | 36 | 18 |

The difference between the end of 1992 and that of 1993 is appreciable. Nearly half of those polled admit that their economic situation has improved. Only 18 percent claim that it has worsened.

**How good or bad do you think economic openness has been for the country? (figures are percentages)**

| | Very good | Rather good | Totally good | Rather bad | Very bad | Totally bad | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dec 1992 | 16 | 39 | 56 | 15 | 20 | 35 | 10 |
| Dec 1993 | 20 | 40 | 60 | 13 | 17 | 30 | 10 |

Economic openness, a policy against which many leaders preached, believing that they would thereby gain the people's support, is becoming more popular every day. At present, 60 percent of those polled consider it good: four points higher than the previous year's figure. h3
Confidence in Institutions

**How much confidence do you have in the following institutions? (figures percentages)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Catholic Church | 45 |
| Army | 28 |
| Television Newscasts | 25 |
| Inspector General's Office | 24 |
| Private Enterprise | 23 |
| Treasury Supervisor's Office | 21 |
| Radio Newscasts | 20 |
| Newspapers | 19 |
| Attorney General's Office | 18 |
| General Auditor's Office | 13 |
| Judges | 11 |
| Trade Unions | 10 |
| Police | 9 |
| Congress | 4 |
| Political Parties | 2 |

The Catholic Church has maintained a leadership in this respect for years; although, as may be observed in the question asked of practicing Catholics, they do not, in fact, pay much attention to its severity concerning the sexual issue. The high degree of confidence in the Army is underscored; not so in the case of the police, who rank as low as the trade unions (victims of major discreditation). Their poor image is exceeded only by that of the Congress and the political parties. [passage omitted]

## Ecuador

### Calm Returns After Nationwide Strike

*PA0402151694 Paris AFP in Spanish 1347 GMT 4 Feb 94*

[Text] Quito, 4 Feb (AFP)—Ecuador began this Friday with complete calm following a nationwide workers strike yesterday to reject a recent 71.2-percent increase in gasoline prices. This morning sanitation workers were removing debris left from the barricades erected by demonstrators in the streets.

Activities were returning to normal as urban buses began providing service. On Thursday the buses paralyzed a large part of the country when they stopped operating to avoid being damaged by demonstrators.

There were no major incidents as rightist Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen confronted the third workers strike in the first 18 months of his administration, which will conclude in August 1996. On Saturday Duran-Ballen implemented a price increase from 1,460 to 2,500 sucres (from $0.71 to $1.22) a gallon (3.785 liters) for the most widely used gasoline in the country. This measure was rejected by political, social, student, and labor sectors. More than 12 demonstrators and 20 policemen were injured during the clashes, which also caused heavy damage to public and bank buildings in Quito and the port of Guayaquil.

The United Workers Front (FUT), which includes the most powerful labor federations, ordered the 24-hour strike to demand wage increases and the cancellation of the fuel price hike. It announced it is planning another nationwide strike in the next few days for an indefinite period, as well as an empty-pot march by housewives and an Indian uprising [levantamiento de indigenas], scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday respectively.

### 160 Arrested in Demonstrations

*PA0402153494 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1430 GMT 4 Feb 94*

[From "The Voz Andes" newscast]

[Text] The National Police have confirmed that 160 people, mainly students, have been arrested since the protests against the government began. A bulletin issued by the police states that the detainees are being held at the Quito Regiment and at OID [expansion unknown] facilities. The report adds that 36 people were arrested in Quito during yesterday's nationwide strike.

### Strike Ends, But Demonstrations Continue

*PA0402181194 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1654 GMT 4 Feb 94*

[Text] Quito, 4 Feb (DPA)—The general strike against the economic policy of the liberal government of President Sixto Duran-Ballen ended at 0600 (1100 GMT) with very modest results because it was limited and incomplete. Nevertheless, street demonstrations have continued.

In Quito and Cuenca, the two cities where the strike was felt the most, labor and student groups held demonstrations for the fifth consecutive day today, while Indian leaders reiterated their call for a peasant uprising next week.

Nevertheless, yesterday's unusual strike, smaller than previous strikes, evidently weakened the position of the labor, peasant, teacher, government worker, and student organizations that called the strike. Signs of division appeared among them today.

The United Workers Front claimed sole responsibility for the "complete success" of the strike today, disregarding the existence of a "national coordinating board" with leaders from other sectors, sparking angry protests from several organizations.

This week's demonstrations left an official toll of 21 injured, including 13 policemen, and 163 people arrested. Losses are estimated at approximately $200 million.

Today, at the end of the strike, the government stated the increase in fuel prices, which caused the strike and several days of disturbances, is "completely irreversible" because, as Energy Minister Francisco Acosta said, "there is a fiscal deficit that must be covered and this is the way to do it."

Nevertheless, today, the opposition political parties which control Congress insisted the Constitutional Court should declare the increase illegal, and they should suspend it. They also said the energy minister would be called to a political hearing, and Social Democratic leader Andres Vallejo said "we will remove him if the government does not repeal the measure."

The fiscal deficit, which reportedly amounts to $600 million, was caused by the drop in international petroleum prices, which earns more than 40 percent of Ecuador's revenue.

## Paraguay

### Attorney General Wants Armed Peasant Group Investigated

*PY0402211394 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 4 Feb 94 p 59*

[Excerpts] Attorney General Luis Emilio Escobar Faella has asked the San Pedro de Ycuamandiyu trial judge to investigate a group of peasants from Tava'i Borda who are allegedly involved in guerrilla activities in the area. The attorney general has lodged a formal protest before the court against the peasants on charges of illegal association for criminal purposes, and for perpetrating crimes against persons and the security of the state. [passage omitted]

The report adds that in the Tava'i Borda II area, groups of peasants are allegedly armed with guns, including submachine guns.

The alleged leaders of the guerrilla group have been identified as Elvio Benitez and Venancio Zeballos. They reportedly persecute those who disagree with them and indoctrinating the rest to engage in unlawful practices in the area, such as stealing cattle and the illegal lumber trade. [passage omitted]

## Peru

### Fujimori Greets First Paraguayan President Visiting Country

*PA0402135194 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 Feb 94*

[From the "Global TV News" newscast; passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] This is the first official visit to Peru by a Paraguayan president. Juan Carlos Wasmosy arrived in our capital at 1055 after a delay of more than an hour.

President Fujimori welcomed him at the 8th Air Group with the honors befitting his high rank. The group then went to the Independence Heroes Monument on Jesus Maria Street to place wreaths.

After saluting the national flag, the Paraguayan leader went to the Government Palace where he met privately with his counterpart Alberto Fujimori for one hour and 10 minutes. Wasmosy made favorable comments about his first meeting with the chief of state and emphasized the possibility of establishing a free zone in (Puerto Suarez) to give Peru an outlet to the Atlantic:

[Wasmosy] "We had an open agenda. We discussed many issues; we talked about investments, commerce, drug trafficking, and complementary issues at the diplomatic and Consular Academy.

[Unidentified reporter] "What about the free zone?

[Wasmosy] "We offered Peru the same outlet we offered Bolivia along the Paraguay River through [words indistinct]. In turn, Fujimori offered us the same facilities Peru gave Bolivia.

[Reporter] "When will this take effect?

[Wasmosy] "We are just starting; this is the first visit of a Paraguayan president to this country.

[Reporter] "Will you hold meetings on the free zone?

[Wasmosy] "I hope so. We have not talked about that yet.

[Reporter] "Will the Bolivian president also participate in the talks regarding the free zone in (Puerto Suarez)?

[Wasmosy] "No, Peru and Bolivia already signed a trade agreement, which is very positive for the two countries. We are helping Bolivia and Peru secure an outlet to the Atlantic through (Puerto Suarez) or (Puerto Aguirre)."

Paraguayan President Juan Carlos Wasmosy arrived at the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD] at 1600. He received the honors befitting his high rank. CCD President Jaime Yoshiyama greeted Wasmosy and escorted him to the Senate Hemicycle where the plenum officially welcomed him. During his speech at the solemn session, Yoshiyama emphasized the presence of the illustrious visitor by stating that it reflects a commitment to strengthen bilateral relations:

[Yoshiyama] "This is the first time in the republican history of our countries that a head of state of the sister Republic of Paraguay has paid an official visit to Peru. This represents the strongest political will to reaffirm the traditional ties of friendship that exist between two peoples."

Meanwhile, President Wasmosy commented on the possibilities of broad mutual support in various areas:

[Wasmosy] "We are living in difficult times that require careful study to make the most [word indistinct] decisions. You Peruvians and we Paraguayans [words indistinct]."

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the Paraguayan president and his official delegation, which included the foreign relations minister, politicians, union leaders, and businessmen, went to the Municipal Palace where Wasmosy was declared an illustrious guest and given the keys to the city. In a brief news conference where he expressed thanks for the welcome he received in Lima, President Wasmosy called the agreement signed on the morning of 31 January between Peruvian and Paraguayan businessmen at the Lima Chamber of Commerce historic. He added that Peru will receive the same treatment as Bolivia in gaining access to the Atlantic through Paraguay's largest river basin, and this in turn will promote greater commercial development in the region:

[Wasmosy] "We discussed this with the president, that is, making you the same offer we made Bolivia through (Puerto Aguirre), (Puerto Suarez), and (Tibush). This would be linked by railway. Peru will gain a outlet to the Atlantic through the [words indistinct]."

### President Fujimori Interviewed

*PY0402191094 Montevideo EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO in Spanish 27 Jan 94 pp 16-19, 32*

[Interview with President Alberto Fujimori by Alvaro Amoretti at Government House in Lima; date not given]

[Text] [Amoretti] Have you met Uruguayan President Luis Lacalle?

[Fujimori] I have.

[Amoretti] What is your opinion of him?

[Fujimori] First of all he is a good communicator. He is an eloquent president who always raises original ideas at international forums.

[Amoretti] Are you on good terms with him?

[Fujimori] Yes. I would say communication with Lacalle is good. We talked at several international meetings, and on several occasions he called me from Montevideo.

[Amoretti] And with Enrique Iglesias?

[Fujimori] We have excellent relations. He was among the first who supported us, and even today he is one of the few who has always been on our side. We have a lot for which to thank him.

[Amoretti] You ran in the 1990 elections as the leader of Change 90, a political group that no one thought would have good chances of winning the presidency. The victory of writer Mario Vargas Llosa, the leader of Fredemo [Democratic Front], was taken for granted all over the world, and also in Peru. Did you actually expect to win the elections?

[Fujimori] Right, very few people thought I had good chances of reaching the presidency. To tell you the truth, only four people and I were expecting a victory.

[Amoretti] And why do you think you won? Why did people choose an unknown person instead of a famous writer or the old APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance]?

[Fujimori] First of all, because of the people being fed up with the Peruvian political system. People were tired of a system that offered no solutions. Peru lived in democracy, but what did people get from that? Second, I believe people realized that we were proposing a government without any links whatsoever with the major political and economic interests that were binding Peru. The other candidates, however, clearly represented continuism, after 500 years of failure.

[Amoretti] Did Vargas Llosa represent that continuism?

[Fujimori] Perhaps he did; perhaps he didn't. But that is not the only reason why Vargas Llosa lost and we won. He represented the elite of Peruvian society, and this drove him away from the masses. That is why we won.

[Amoretti] Vargas Llosa recently has criticized you and your government very harshly. What is your opinion of him?

[Fujimori] I'd rather not give an opinion on Vargas Llosa because I believe his political opinions do not merit consideration. Like everyone else, however, I believe he is a good writer.

[Amoretti] You like him as a writer, but not as a politician.

[Fujimori] Right. (laughter)

[Amoretti] You won the runoff election in 1990 and replaced APRA leader Alan Garcia. How was the country when you assumed power?

[Fujimori] It was a disaster. The worst disaster I saw in the history of my country. As an example, I remind you that Peru had the world's highest inflation rate, it was isolated from all international financial organizations, it could get no credit, it was full of debts, and its economy was in true chaos. As if all that were not enough, terrorists were ruling all corners of the country. When I took over, there was no solution in sight for terrorism. Summarizing, I received a country in a state of disaster and with no solution in sight.

[Amoretti] Do you think Alan Garcia's administration is the only one to blame for this "state of disaster"?

[Fujimori] No, his administration is not the only one to blame. Peru's problem has been dragging on 500 years. These 500 years weigh heavily on our shoulders and have plunged us into this situation.

[Amoretti] What is your evaluation of your predecessor's administration? While Vargas Llosa has been hard on you, one should acknowledge that you have not been any easier on Alan Garcia and his administration.

[Fujimori] Look here, I think that Alan Garcia and his administration managed the economy to suit their personal interests and the economic circumstances prevalent at that time. Peru was isolated; it embarked on projects that were not the most cost-effective ones. Certain industrial sectors were strongly protected just to favor them. Governmental and legal instruments were used to benefit people close to the government. There was very little serious economic management in which national interests were not the government's overriding concern.

[Amoretti] The Peruvian Congress currently is studying charges of bribery made against Alan Garcia and his party. They had allegedly accepted bribes from the Italian Government to build an electric train in Peru. According to the latest public opinion polls, more than 60 percent of Lima residents believe Garcia is guilty. Do you feel that the charges against the former president are serious?

[Fujimori] I could not make a categorical statement on an issue under investigation. But the source that contends that the former president is implicated in bribery is precisely from Italy, where the case is already under investigation. This goes to prove that at least there is no manipulation of the case at the domestic level.

[Amoretti] Following Alan Garcia's administration, the APRA was soundly defeated in 1990. At present it comes in last in all public opinion surveys conducted in Peru. Do you think the APRA is mortally wounded?

[Fujimori] I think it does not stand a chance of coming to power with the current leaders it has. Nevertheless, I cannot overlook the fact that there are many card-carrying APRA members who still believe in the guidelines and teachings of their party founder, Victor Raul Haya de la Torre. These people cherish the hope that their party will change direction and find its course again. Meanwhile, the majority of its members is supporting the government. They are supporting my government.

[Amoretti] Is that what the surveys that you handle show?

[Fujimori] No, that is what the people in the Peruvian mountain range, forest, indeed in all of Peru, say.

[Amoretti] You say that the people who follow Haya de la Torre's principles currently are aligned with your government. What do you think of Haya de la Torre?

[Fujimori] I think he is a person who made history. He was important, a good counterbalance for the politicians who at the time were not very honest. I think he was a very honest politician.

[Amoretti] You came to government in 1990 and, according to your own words, you received the country in a "state of disaster." When did you begin to think of the possibility of dissolving Congress? When did you begin to see that that would be the solution to the crisis?

[Fujimori] I never revealed that, but to be sincere it was a process, an evolution. I realized the problem was not only Congress but the whole Peruvian political system. It was the whole political system that was not working as it should.

[Amoretti] ... and Congress represented that political system that did not work.

[Fujimori] Of course. I also began to see that the Judicial Branch did not work as it should and something had to be done so justice would fulfill its duties. I began understanding that. I realized that here we either defeat violence and establish order, or the country would crumble amid the "democracy" we were living in.

[Amoretti] What was the determining factor that led you to take that step?

[Fujimori] I had two options. One was to administer the violence and economic crisis, to carry on as best as possible, and leave government in 1995 as a democratic president. But the people did not elect me for that. Politicians must solve problems. That is why I took the other option.

[Amoretti] Uruguayan President Juan Maria Bordaberry made a reasoning similar to yours in the 70's. He dissolved Congress and continued governing with the Armed Forces' support. Did you know anything about the Uruguayan experience when you decided to temporarily dissolve the Peruvian Congress?

[Fujimori] I knew something about what happened in Uruguay, although not in depth. Anyway, I think there has been a great difference between the two processes since the administrative act. In Peru the process is being carried out by the people through the president of the Republic, who is not subject to military power. From what I know, that was not the case with Bordaberry. That is the difference. I am in command here.

[Amoretti] Is the president still in charge here?

[Fujimori] Of course; it is notoriously so.

[Amoretti] Aren't there some military officers who demand old shares of power they enjoyed in the past?

[Fujimori] There are some military officers who want to recover the power they once had over the political system. They are demanding the share they once had and no longer control. When General Salinas and his group attempted to overthrow me, they did so because they did not accept the political power over the military power.

[Amoretti] Do the military officers who think in this manner represent a considerable group within the Peruvian Armed Forces?

[Fujimori] There are 100,000 men in the Peruvian Armed Forces. There is place for all kinds of ideas among 100,000 men. But that is not the main issue. The main issue is that here there is a hierarchy and a command that are very strong and that they will have to respect.

[Amoretti] I would like to return to the subject on your decision to temporarily dissolve Congress. Was it difficult for you, a president elected by the people, to make a decision of this kind? What internal conflicts does a president have when he makes a decision of this kind?

[Fujimori] I did not have any kind of internal conflicts before making the decision. I was absolutely convinced of what I was doing.

[Amoretti] Sometimes people wonder with whom the president consults before making a decision of this kind. In your case, who did you speak with?

[Fujimori] In my case, I only consulted my conscience. I have documents that can prove my internal evolution of what I was doing until I reached that drastic decision. I made the decision on my own, and a few hours later I phoned a few people to inform them of my determination and the contents of the decrees I would release.

[Amoretti] Didn't you consult the military chiefs?

[Fujimori] A few hours before publicly announcing my decision I spoke with all the commanders. I simply gave them clear instructions.

[Amoretti] Didn't you even consult or discuss the measure with some of the members of your family?

[Fujimori] No. I did not speak with any member of my family. Nobody, nobody at all knew about my decision. The irrefutable evidence is that nobody knew about it and that it did not leak out. (laughter)

[Amoretti] We just tried to point out similarities between the Uruguayan and Peruvian processes. Not long ago, Bordaberry said in an interview with EL OBSERVADOR that at the moment one decides to dissolve Congress, one is alone. Did you feel this way?

[Fujimori] I did not feel alone. I felt broad support, and that was proven afterward in the streets. My decision was backed by the people.

[Amoretti] Weren't the words "dictator" and "coupist," which were used afterward in many parts of the world to refer to you, resounding in your head?

[Fujimori] I know what you mean. But I am not interested in adjectives. I am only interested in solutions. And the events speak in my favor. We currently have a much more efficient democracy; Congress is working; the Peruvian people have work and can travel happily and calmly anywhere because the threat of terrorism is being controlled. The country is beginning to rise up again. Adjectives are not important.

[Amoretti] Some people maintain that "traditional liberal democracy" lacks enough authority to impose itself over violence. Do you think the weaknesses of that "traditional liberal democracy" are the ones that nourished the appearance and increase of terrorism in Peru?

[Fujimori] But there was no democracy in Peru before 5 April 1992, because if there had been democracy there would have not been terrorism and the injustices that took place would have not happened. That is the evidence that democracy did not work. Simply because that was not a democracy. If a democratic system leads to terrorism, misery, injustice, and corruption, that system cannot be called democracy.

[Amoretti] By what I see, a system is "democratic" for you as long as some human rights are respected, like the right to work, to private property, to life, to happiness, etc.

[Fujimori] When I speak of human rights I speak not only of the human rights of the terrorists, because that was the trend in the last 12 years. Instead I am speaking of the human rights of 22 million Peruvians. The principle of respect for the human being must not make us forget that the social and human rights of the majority of the population must not be violated. Therefore, one must not be afraid to place human rights at risk in order to defeat terrorism. My government has the decisiveness and will to fight terrorism, but respecting human rights. I said: "Total respect for human rights," but first come the human rights of 22 million Peruvians. If someone violated human rights here it is the Shining Path, and I have done everything to defend the human rights of all the Peruvian people. You can tour not only the interior, but the outskirts of Lima and ask the people: "Where is your right to education, to an honorable life? Those rights cannot be seen and have not been seen for many years. We must now try to conquer those human rights for ourselves."

[Amoretti] When you launched the offensive against the Shining Path and the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement [MRTA], very few people believed you could win that war. When the Armed Forces captured [top Shining Path leader] Abimael Guzman and other members of the Shining Path's leadership, everybody thought victory already had been won. Do you feel victory already has been won in this war?

[Fujimori] Much remains to be done. We still must wipe out the last pockets of terrorism in Peru. You may rest assured that I am going to mop up or exterminate terrorists. I have set some goals for myself and I must confess that I have achieved them. I intended to mop up MRTA during 1993, and it had practically disappeared by the end of last year. There are only two leaders at large, but I am quite sure that sooner or later I am going to capture them. Meanwhile, with regard to the Shining Path, they have surrendered for all practical purposes, and this has brought about massive desertion. I hope the Shining Path will have been routed by 1995.

[Amoretti] What role do you assign to the Peruvian Armed Forces in that war?

[Fujimori] Well, the Peruvian Army is a victorious force. When I ascended to the presidency, I found that the Army's morale had been totally undermined, it lacked motivation, it was disoriented, on the defensive, and nearly defeated. The military had retreated to its barracks. Now things are different—this is a new Army. People have changed their opinion about the Army.

[Amoretti] Owing to the fight against guerrillas?

[Fujimori] Not only on account of that, but also because the Army is driving tractors; it is collaborating with the population, opening roads and highways, repairing homes and schools razed by terrorists; it is engaged in community service. The Peruvian Army not only serves to combat violence, it also has been raised for times of peace.

[Amoretti] Terrorism has left in its wake thousands of orphans who lack family values and the basic necessities of life. This is especially true in some regions of the country. What do you feel every time a citizen asks you to meet one of these children during your frequent trips to the interior?

[Fujimori] It makes me feel indignant and sets me pondering about those children's human rights. Who ever spares a thought for children's human rights?

[Amoretti] Do you still believe in the death penalty for terrorists?

[Fujimori] Yes, I do. I think capital punishment ought to be meted out to those who murder others without a motive.

[Amoretti] Isn't that, in a way, a return to the principle of "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth"?

[Fujimori] No, I do not think so. I am in favor of the death penalty for top leaders. Were a new Abimael Guzman to emerge as leader he would have to be eliminated at once.

[Amoretti] Since you dissolved Congress, several international organizations have criticized you for making that decision. Much of the criticism has come from the United States, where economic aid to Peru has been time and again blocked because it is considered there that there is no unrestricted respect for human rights in your country. Would you admit to charges that excesses have been committed in the war against terrorism?

[Fujimori] Yes, I admit to that. There have been isolated cases of excesses. Human rights are always violated in a war against terrorism. The war has been waged here with a great deal of intelligence and, naturally, with force. There have been isolated cases because human rights violations had preceded this war. The Army used to act in a certain way, and we can see that it continued to mechanically follow the same behavior in some isolated cases.

[Amoretti] Well, are human rights being respected now?

[Fujimori] There is unrestricted respect for human rights.

[Amoretti] Then how would you justify a statement made by Alexander Watson—a U.S. Government representative who came to Peru to inspect the progress made in human rights—to the effect that although some progress has been made, much remains to be improved?

[Fujimori] Look, Peru has been the target of disproportionate criticism. It has not been taken into account that terrorism has claimed the lives of 25,000 people in Peru. After hearing this figure, one may wonder: What would have happened in the United States had anyone killed 250,000 people? Would the U.S. Government have allowed the death of 250,000 people? [figures as published] Certainly not. It would have certainly adopted special measures.

[Amoretti] Do you believe the United States is being unfair to Peru on the subject of human rights?

[Fujimori] Human rights have been violated everywhere in the world in the fight against terrorism. These violations have not been limited to isolated cases, but rather have been systematic. Human rights also have been violated through the bombing of entire cities.

[Amoretti] Your latest remark seems to be alluding directly to the U.S. policy of military intervention in the world.

[Fujimori] What about the bombing of the Russian Parliament? How could a parliament building have been bombed? What would they have said had this happened in Peru? What about U.S. intervention in Vietnam, Iraq, and in many other places, shouldn't these actions be regarded as human rights violations? Look how damaging those wars were.

[Amoretti] You are saying that the United States has a double standard for judging, for instance, what Washington does and what Peru does.

[Fujimori] That is undoubtedly correct.

[Amoretti] Today you visited the southern part of the country, which is the birthplace and stronghold of the Shining Path. Did you ask the U.S. representative to join you for this visit?

[Fujimori] I did. I thought it would be useful for him, if he is going to report on human rights, to speak with many people whose rights have been violated by terrorists. Unfortunately, Mr. Watson preferred to stay in Lima and write his report from behind a desk. My government has a different approach: We deal with problems where they happen.

[Amoretti] Have you received the support of presidents or representatives of international organizations?

[Fujimori] I have. I keep receiving expressions of support out of recognition for what we have achieved here. I am sure that other peoples recognize our achievements in this area. What people of Latin America would have accepted a situation like that existing in Peru? What people of Latin America would reject a government that has eradicated terrorism in less than a year and a half? I feel supported. Which government of the United States, France, or Great Britain has fought terrorism as effectively as we have done here? Peru was like a Latin American Cambodia! That situation was overcome in less than one and a half years without major social costs. This is why I say that the U.S. criticism is disproportionate.

[Amoretti] Today you emphasized that when you took over, the Peruvian economy was chaotic. What is the current situation?

[Fujimori] It is recomposed and it is being put on a healthier footing. We have difficulties. We were at a critical point last year, but we immediately began to grow. We have not yet reached the levels of 1990, but from now on there will be steady growth.

[Amoretti] How is the country doing from a macroeconomic point of view?

[Fujimori] I think it is doing well. Inflation has been put under control and we expect it to remain below 25 percent in 1994. Foreign investment is growing, and the public deficit has become manageable. In this field we are doing well.

[Amoretti] Those who know Peru are aware that there is no consolidated entrepreneurial spirit in the country. In this regard, a whole retrofitting process should be implemented in order to develop a pure liberal model.

[Fujimori] We have drastically implemented industrial retrofitting, eliminating overprotection of vast sectors of the economy. Now everyone is compelled to invest more, risk more, and produce more and better. He who does not understand this has no future in the new Peru.

[Amoretti] And what about banking and finance?

[Fujimori] I would say this sector has not yet fully adapted itself to this process. But I am sure that the arrival of the international banking system in Peru will adjust the whole process. I hope the international banking system will in the short term arrive through privatization of various banks that are now being run by the state.

[Amoretti] You say that the economy, even if gradually, has improved and the country is well from a macroeconomic point of view. But how is the current life of the average Peruvian?

[Fujimori] Tight. People do have shortages, which does not mean that Peru has the type of poverty of some African or Asian countries. But people do live tightly. There is recession and growth, but the important thing is that the economy is now on the right course.

[Amoretti] In recent years, there have been several successful economic experiences in South America, like that of Chile and then Bolivia and Argentina. Meanwhile, the Mexican process is to the north. What are the economic models in the region in which you are interested?

[Fujimori] Look, I reiterate that the model we are implementing here is totally Peruvian. This is not a whim because when we took over we found some major problems that the economies you are mentioning did not have to confront. Here we worked and we will continue to work with pragmatism.

[Amoretti] Shortly after you took over, you set in motion a vast program of deregulation and reduction of the state. Peru has privatized and continues to privatize many state companies. Do you know that in a referendum in Uruguay, 72 percent of the population voted against the privatization program of President Luis Alberto Lacalle's government?

[Fujimori] I do.

[Amoretti] And why would you tell the 72 percent of Uruguayans who voted against privatization that the right course is to privatize public enterprises?

[Fujimori] I would tell them that the state apparatus should be as efficient as possible. At the present time the state cannot be a charitable organization that subsidizes jobs. We made a drastic reduction of the state here in Peru, and today our state is much more efficient. And to the people who lost their public jobs, we encouraged them to build their future in the private sector. And if we talk about public enterprises, you'll be surprised to know that Peru had an annual deficit of $2.5 billion. It was difficult to reduce this deficit. Very difficult.

[Amoretti] At the beginning of your term, you said the majority of public enterprises could be run by the state. Why did you change your mind and decide to sell all public enterprises?

[Fujimori] I changed my mind. I concluded that I had to sell everything because inefficiencies could not be corrected if they remained within the state. And I was not wrong because the enterprises that were privatized have increased their production, workers have kept their jobs, investment has grown, and their higher profits have yielded higher taxes.

[Amoretti] What are the economic achievements you would like to attain in Peru?

[Fujimori] I would like Peru to grow and overcome the backwardness of 500 years.

[Amoretti] When a person like yourself leads a battle against terrorism, I would think that you are quite aware that you, yourself, may be an eventual target. Nevertheless, you continue to visit towns nationwide and you stop and talk to the people without much protection. Don't you fear an attempt on your life?

[Fujimori] I fear for my children. I have and will continue to fear for their safety. Of course I have adopted some very specific precautions in this regard. I do not fear for my life. I am willing to take risks. I specifically go to those places where the Shining Path is present. I do not fear it.

[Amoretti] What did you feel when TIME magazine named you "Man of the Year" in Latin America?

[Fujimori] A great satisfaction, naturally. But if anyone has to take any credit it is the Peruvian people. This prize belongs to the people. It was the people who endured the burden of the measures that were implemented to push the country forward; therefore, it is their award.

[Amoretti] The entire country is talking about the possibility that you may run for the next presidential term in 1995. Will you seek reelection?

[Fujimori] I have not yet considered the issue. I continue to work and have no time to think about reelection yet.

[Amoretti] When do you plan to make a decision in this regard?

[Fujimori] I believe I will be making that decision and reporting it a few weeks before the registration deadline expires. Before the end of the year I will be deciding whether I will seek reelection or not.

[Amoretti] Have you made any preliminary decisions yet?

[Fujimori] (hesitates)... No, I have not.

[Amoretti] Do you want to continue in government or are you tired?

[Fujimori] I do not feel tired. Every time I talk with the people I feel more encouraged. I am not an office person.

[Amoretti] If you decide to seek reelection, what political scenario do you foresee in 1995?

[Fujimori] I believe that all the other political forces will form a coalition in 1995. Everyone against me. I am sure about that. (laughter)

[Amoretti] If you run, that is... (laughter)

[Fujimori] If I run... (laughter).

[Amoretti] Today's world is managed on the basis of large economic blocs. Peru is a member of the Andean Pact, but it is also opening its economy to be able to join other pacts, such as NAFTA, comprising the United States, Mexico, and Canada; or Mercosur [Common

Market of the South]. What will be Peru's short- and long-term position regarding these two blocs?

[Fujimori] Peru is preparing itself to achieve an integration of this nature. We have eliminated almost all trade barriers and those still in force are to be eliminated.

[Amoretti] Do you reject the idea of requesting your country's membership in NAFTA or Mercosur?

[Fujimori] No. This is something we have been considering and for which we have been preparing ourselves. Peru is betting on integration.

[Amoretti] Which one, Mercosur or NAFTA?

[Fujimori] Time will tell which one we will join. As a government leader I will have to assess my country's interests, and particularly Latin American interests. We will make our decision on that basis.

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## Fujimori Interviewed on National, Regional Issues

*PY0402230594 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 3 Feb 94 pp 2-3*

["Exclusive" interview with Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori by "special correspondents" Celso Chavez and Justo Pastor Benitez in Lima during Paraguayan President Juan Carlos Wasmosy's state visit—date not given]

[Text] [NOTICIAS] How did this rapprochement with Paraguay start?

[Fujimori] It really started during the presidential inauguration in Asuncion. At the time, President Wasmosy and I became friends. This visit greatly strengthens our bilateral ties. I believe some steps will be taken to strengthen them even more.

[NOTICIAS] Do you believe [Latin American liberator Simon] Bolivar's dream of achieving a politically and economically united Latin America will ever be accomplished?

[Fujimori] I believe that each one of these markets, Mercosur [Common Market of the South] and the Andean Pact, will have to consolidate themselves by establishing free markets that will lead to integration. It is very likely that some countries will become doorways between Mercosur and the Andean Group. Peru, and I believe all Latin American countries, are very willing to be part of a large bloc.

[NOTICIAS] What is your definition of Peruvian economic policy, because any integration is based on the macroeconomic factor?

[Fujimori] I believe that one of the issues that may delay this economic integration is the establishment of common customs tariffs. There is a wide variety of ideas on this issue. Peru's case in the Andean Pact is an example of this, at least temporarily. Peru has an open economic policy, with common customs tariffs ranging between 15 and 25 percent on products, while other countries have a differentiated customs tax. This is the main problem impeding an agreement.

[NOTICIAS] What is Peru's domestic situation? Is terrorism still a shadow?

[Fujimori] I hope you have the opportunity to witness for yourselves here in Lima, and throughout Peru, that people can walk freely and safely. Terrorism is not a problem for us anymore. In less than two years, we have been able to defeat two of the more violent groups in the world, not only in Latin America. By adopting specific and practical measures at all levels, and through an overall strategy, Peru is now able to overcome underdevelopment, precisely because terrorism was one of the factors that undermined this objective.

Right now we have launched a great battle: the fight against poverty. This is done, of course, without overlooking other areas such as the fight against drug trafficking. We are concentrating on this to strengthen domestic security.

[NOTICIAS] Do the Chiapas and Santiago del Estero cases worry you?

[Fujimori] Similar cases may occur in other places. We have suffered a terrible nightmare for the past 13 years. Fortunately, we are almost through with it and we have gained great experience. We are aware that pacification is achieved only through development. We are working on this, and this is why we have declared war on poverty.

[NOTICIAS] Mr. President, do you believe that the Fujimori approach in Peru as a Peruvian political experience can be applied in other Latin American countries?

[Fujimori] I do not believe that models applied in one country can be repeated elsewhere. But I do believe that people are questioning themselves, not only in Latin America but in other regions of the world as well, because the so-called democracies are not working. Peru's particular case, and probably that of some Latin American countries, is that the objectives and aspirations outlined by the government and the people are not fulfilled. This is the cause of frustrations resulting from a system that is mistakenly called democracy.

At the world level, there will be a need for reform that the peoples will bring about to improve the democratic system.

[NOTICIAS] Do you believe the Latin American political class is declining?

[Fujimori] It is being questioned and this is taking place in several places. If there is no rapid reaction, it is going to be challenged.

[NOTICIAS] Are you thinking about seeking reelection? And if that is the case, what will be your political support? Will you be supported by any particular sector?

[Fujimori] I reassert that I have not made up my mind yet. My entire government policy is based on the people, on the people's needs.

My party, Change 90 or New Majority, is the one that groups competent people. We do not have a party structure.

[NOTICIAS] How would you define democracy from your point of view?

[Fujimori] I believe one must defend democracy, but not a pseudo-democracy, which strives to hide improper situations. Democracy must be increasingly more open. It is within this framework that democracy and the people will win.

[NOTICIAS] Finally, what was [Shining Path leader] Abimael Guzman to you?

[Fujimori] A criminal...a criminal.

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### Shining Path Members Send Letters to Paper

*PY0502014894 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 23 Jan 94 p 2*

[All quotation marks as published]

[Text] Two handwritten letters issued by Shining Path militants have been delivered to LA REPUBLICA. The letters, within the context of the bloody and fateful subversive war that bled our country for more than 13 years, could lead to a new stage filled with grave and daunting consequences.

One of the clandestine or confidential documents is signed—in the way pamphlets, pronouncements, or declaration are usually done—by the "Prisoners of war of the Canto Grande Luminous Combat Trench [LTC]."

The other document is a letter addressed by the captured Edmundo Daniel Cox Beuzeville (sentenced to life imprisonment) to a colonel.

Both documents stress "the ironclad and unconditional subordination to the party leadership" undoubtedly represented by Abimael Guzman Reynoso, whom they call "President Gonzalo."

The letters also express their indubitable support to the letters signed by "President Gonzalo" and "Comrade Miriam" and their request to President Alberto Fujimori for "a peace agreement."

The new and worrying aspect of these two letters is that together with the deceiving call for a "peace agreement" there is a call for a Shining Path "second congress."

In other words, the terrorist organization does not lay down its arms or surrender. It accepts talks or negotiations with the government leading to "a peace agreement" and conspires while getting reorganized through a call for a new congress.

There is another new element in these documents, the implications of which, without a doubt, deserve a broad national debate in light of official reports:

The Canto Grande inmates and Cox Beuzeville at no time mention the much publicized "internal war between Shining Path followers." (There is no separation of responsibilities with "Comrade Feliciano").

The fourth paragraph of the Canto Grande document, moreover, mentions a "black campaign by opportunists and revisionists," followed by threatening remarks.

The Shining Path has usually used these adjectives to refer to leftist political parties, labor organizations, and even to nongovernmental organizations (ONG).

But what is worse, they have not only characterized them as opportunists and revisionists and threatened them. They also have used this type of verbal virulence to justify their cowardly and absurd crimes against these organizations' leaders and social workers.

There are, therefore, many answers and many explanations behind this disturbing and grim strategy of letters.

One of the explanations, for instance, must refer in very concrete terms to the revelation made by Cox Beuzeville that he has been allowed to leave prison, where he is serving a life sentence, to carry out "works" on behalf of pacification.

[First letter]

"Struggle for a peace agreement and establishment of the basis for the second congress.

"We, the fighting Communists and the masses of the Canto Grande Luminous Combat Trench, undeclinably accepting President Gonzalo's leadership in this historic and great test, reiterate our decision not to take a single step without President Gonzalo's personal approval for we are fully convinced that he is the greatest Marxist-Leninist-Maoist living on earth, and just as he lead us in the past he will lead us again today, tomorrow, and forever until we reach our objective, the much coveted Communism."

"It is convenient to stop for a minute in this paragraph. It is an organic statement, a statement of ideological ratification. It is an act of subordination to Abimael's personal leadership.

"We also salute and support the new strategic course established by him, unshakably sure that the proletarian leadership is decisive for victory. Even more so in these circumstances of new, complex, and difficult problems for our party, the people's war, the Peruvian revolution, and the world proletarian revolution."

This is a new course for Peruvian revolution.

"The fighting Communists and masses, closing ranks with President Gonzalo and the Central Leadership, firmly, decisively, and tenaciously support the call made by our leadership and Comrade Miriam to struggle for a peace agreement and establish the basis for the Second Congress, putting into practice the unavoidable task of Assuming and Struggle for the New Great Decision and Definition as Communists, Maoists, and soldiers of the proletariat, with deep revolutionary happiness and optimism, and committing ourselves to make Canto Grande a forward station of this new stage."

Establish the basis for the Second Shining Path Congress.

"With the deepest class hate, we totally and resolutely repudiate and condemn the sinister black campaign against President Gonzalo and Comrade Miriam, the essence of which is to cunningly oppose the Peace Agreement. Those who always attacked us furiously have once more unleashed their infamy with even more audaciousness. Today more than ever they are moved by egotist electoral ambitions and political appetites. They are the usual opportunists, revisionists, and lackeys who again show their persistent opposition to the true interests of the deep masses and the people."

It is not against the traditional parties, the legal left, labor leaders, or the ONG's.

"Assume with firmness and accelerated willingness this New Great Decision and Definition because it serves the interests of proletarians and the people, hoisting as high as possible the always red flags of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism and Gonzalo's thoughts, our specific and main weapon."

"Close lines around President Gonzalo and the Central Leadership!"

"Raise the flag of the New Great Decision and Definition!"

"Struggle for a Peace Agreement and establish the basis for the Second Congress!"

"Glory to Marxism-Leninism-Maoism!"

"Lima, December 1993."

"Prisoners of War of the Campo Grande LTC."

[Second Letter]

"Colonel Savino Cayahuanca Farro"

"Director of E.P.R.E.M.C.C." [expansion unknown]

"Request of personal audience with the director."

"Mister Director."

"I come to you Mr. Colonel director of this EPREMCC to request a personal audience, which I have repeatedly asked through the official authorities of diverse services as of 10 December 1993, the date I returned from my latest exit from this prison, as you know. The purpose of the audience will be to discuss directly with you some necessary and important questions referring to what we agreed upon in other instances on the development of the works and meetings in favor of a successful end of the negotiation for a peace agreement. It is true, Mr. Colonel, that these tasks are not easy or simple. The struggle for a peace agreement is complex, difficult, and risky, and involves the difficulties proper of something new!"

"Ever since the first time you were so kind to receive me I clearly told you, sharply and explicitly, my firm and decisive agreement, voluntary support, conscious identification, and full adherence to President Gonzalo and Comrade Miriam's letters, published and disseminated by President Alberto Fujimori. My commitment is, therefore, full, total, unconditional, public, decisive, and defined for the course of realizing what today has become a need for all: the Peace Agreement. In this way, 'Peace, everyone's task,' as you rightfully ordered painted at the entrance, should be the slogan permitting everyone to cooperate in this praiseworthy objective. This cooperation should have necessary flexibility, within current laws, regulations, and discipline in effect in this prison, which is an undeniable fact that is part of this government's success and your personal merit."

"I reiterate to you, sir, my willingness to discuss all problems that might come up and solve them favorably and in accordance with the Peace Agreement. This is a norm of behavior I adopted ever since I entered this prison, within the framework of mutual respect, and in an attempt to serve the objective of our national reconciliation without winners or losers: making more visible and comfortable our relations between authorities and inmates."

"I beg of you Mr. Director, to attend to this request and agree to it."

"EPREMCC, 3 January 1994"

"Edmundo Daniel Cox Beuzeville"

## Main Shining Path Faction Endorses Peace Proposal

*PY0402172394 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 24 Jan 94 p 3*

[Excerpt] Shining Path members hoisted a big flag in San Juan de Lurigancho district yesterday [23 January] and asked Shining Path members "to lay down the arms" and to obey "President Gonzalo." Meanwhile, that evening a terrorist commando dynamited the Presidente Hotel in Huancayo, causing considerable damage.

These two events, which occurred almost simultaneously, and the two murders committed by subversives in the city of Huancayo prove that inside the terrorist organization there is a radical, fanatic group that does not want the "peace agreement" demanded by Abimael Guzman and wants to continue to ravage the country with selective murders and acts of sabotage.

Although there are indications that the Shining Path faction that wants to "lay down its arms" (it can be deduced that this expression means sort of "cease fire" from their point of view) is the majority and predominant sector, it is also obvious that the fanatic group who do not want to stop their insane bout of murders and attacks is still active in several places in the country.

From the letters recently written by the Shining Path members held at Canto Grande prison, and by their leader Cox Beuzeville—and also from the big flag displayed yesterday—it can be seen that Shining Path members are in no way considering surrender, much less giving up their arms. [passage omitted]

### Opposition Rejects Ruling Alliance's Control of CCD

*PA0402174994 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 2 Feb 94*

[From the "Global TV News" newscast]

[Text] In an eventful session, the plenum of the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD] approved the commissions for the next legislature. Most of them will be headed by representatives of the ruling alliance. The opposition factions opposed this and even walked out of the session saying they had been neglected.

The majority, with 39 votes, imposed their will on the formation of the new ordinary commissions, thereby ensuring the ruling party's supremacy in and control of the commissions.

The following members of the ruling alliance and allied factions are commission presidents: Carlos Blanco, New Majority Movement, Human Rights; Carlos Torres, New Majority Movement, Constitution and Rules and Regulations; Jorge Velasquez, New Majority Movement, Economy; Marta Chavez, New Majority Movement, Supervision; Cesar Fernandez Arce, New Majority Movement, Justice; Cesar Larrebure, We Are Independent, Agriculture; Celso Sotomarino, Popular Christian Party, Production; Romulo Guerra, Change 90, Health and Family; Jorge Figueroa, Change 90, Budget; Rafael Rey, Renewal Movement, Education and Sports; Carlos Reategui, New Majority, Energy; Genaro Colchado, Change 90, Environment; Ricardo Marcenaro, New Majority Movement, Labor; Luz Salgado, Change 90, Decentralization; Osvaldo Sandoval, New Majority Movement, Foreign Relations; and Andres Reggiardo, Change 90, Defense and Internal Order.

The opposition vigorously complained, primarily questioning Roger Caceres' removal from the Human Rights Commission. The ruling party was accused of removing and appointing minority congressmen at will, while ensuring control of key commissions for themselves. The opposition deputies subsequently left the floor.

[Begin recording] [First unidentified congressman] The list of commissions has been approved without a quorum. They are lying to the country and have continued the session without a quorum. Whatever is approved here must be rejected, even through legal action.

[Second unidentified congressman] I must stress that no congressman has been denied participation in the commission of his preference. The only difference is that the commissions in which they are not chairmen they can be secretaries, but no one has been neglected or denied participation in the commission of his choice.

[Third unidentified congressman] I have taken note and there are only three or four problem cases whose solutions depend on agreements to be reached. We are only waiting for the cases to be sent to us, and we will approve whatever is decided. [end recording]

## Venezuela

### Foreign Minister Burelli Interviewed

*PA0502165494 Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 3 Feb 94 p 17*

[Interview with Venezuelan Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Burelli Rivas by Maria Victoria Cristancho; place and date not given]

[Text] [Cristancho] What path should Venezuelan foreign policy follow in the next five years?

[Burelli] Venezuelan foreign policy must reflect order in our country and domestic dignity. Restoring the image of our country overseas is a priority, but leaving aside an excessive extroversion, which is not convenient for a country facing a critical economic situation.

[Cristancho] Do you share the view that there is a campaign to tarnish Venezuela's reputation overseas?

[Burelli] Actually, there is such a campaign, but it can be fought by putting our house in order. This—putting the house in order—requires the assistance of the Venezuelan media so that they do not contribute to those who, from overseas, call us a chaotic nation. If we convey a negative image to the foreign sensationalistic media, we will never be able to attract foreign investors.

[Cristancho] But governments have also been accused of a lack of coherence in their handling of foreign policy?

[Burelli] That is true. The Foreign Ministry must be the only one to coordinate the country's foreign policy. There cannot be a parallel foreign ministry, as once existed, operating in a place other than the Yellow House. State governments cannot hold autonomous foreign relations because Venezuela is a federal republic with a central and presidential government in which the president is responsible for conducting relations with other nations.

[Cristancho] What are your priorities as the new foreign minister?

[Burelli] The defense of national sovereignty, international cooperation, and the conquest—via friendship and understanding—of all the benefits Venezuela is entitled to as a member of the international community. In order to do this, a national international policy is necessary; in other words, a consistent policy is necessary. I am determined, with President Caldera's authorization, to revive the Foreign Relations Advisory Committee, and activate it so that its criteria and experience can be used to guide and direct Venezuelan foreign policy.

Regarding cooperation, Venezuela has always been very generous, and although this attitude pays off somewhat, we will examine whether we should keep or rectify this policy, giving preference to our problems over those of other countries. Venezuela is not a superpower, but a medium-sized country, whose strength lies in its dignity rather than squandering.

[Cristancho] Will that view be reflected in the restructuring of the Foreign Ministry?

[Burelli] I will focus on economizing with human resources. In other words, I will keep officials for their talent and devotion to work, and will thank and send home those who do not meet these requisites. Diplomatic missions often have too many employees. Since employees were earning dollars, the missions became a popular place to practice patronage.

[Cristancho] How will Venezuelan relations with other nations be?

[Burelli] We should act with the certainty of being a country that has always played by the rules. There are priorities in our foreign relations such as our friendship with Colombia, Brazil, the United States, and in general, with all countries. These relations are significant because some of those countries can offer us capital, technology, and guidance while others can support us in international organizations such as the OAS and the United Nations.

[Cristancho] What does globalization mean?

[Burelli] Globalization is the norm of our times, based on the global village the current world has become. However, there are problems we have that must be considered from a universal viewpoint. In addition, there should also be a regional outlook, which is more realistic and in which we move via alliances, cooperation programs, and hemispheric organizations. I believe globalization is harmony between the region and the world.

[Cristancho] Do you believe, contrarily, that between Colombia and Venezuela there is an asymmetrical relationship, which is detrimental to us?

[Burelli] That was the case in the past. Probably, the Colombian Government is already taking steps to prevent Colombians from coming to Venezuela as much anymore because the economic situation has improved, despite other difficulties. I believe the flow of Colombians into Venezuela will decrease.

[Cristancho] Regarding issues such as the theft of vehicles, Venezuela is still suffering from a lack of interest on the part of Colombia.

[Burelli] Regarding that particular issue, Colombia recognizes through its government that there has been neglect and even complicity by its border authorities.

[Cristancho] Then, should not a tougher stand be demanded from Colombian authorities?

[Burelli] Of course. I have told Colombian officials that the agreement regarding the return of stolen vehicles must be complied with because they know we care about that very much.

[Cristancho] Could this not be used as a negotiation instrument by Colombia?

[Burelli] I don't think so. The best thing that could happen to the two countries is that this flow of stolen vehicles on the Colombian-Venezuelan border stops.

[Cristancho] But shouldn't we speak more forcefully to Colombia so that it complies with the agreement?

[Burelli] I do not believe we should be more forceful. We should speak with dignity. It is not necessary to speak forcefully when we speak the truth.

[Cristancho] Regarding the delimitation of marine and submarine areas in the Gulf of Venezuela, do you believe a short-term solution might be reached?

[Burelli] I have no current knowledge of any talks held in this regard. It would be dishonest to express my view on such a controversial issue without knowing about the progress made by the negotiating commission.

[Cristancho] Do you believe the delimitation issue is more political than real?

[Burelli] The delimitation issue involves various aspects. It is a legal and, basically, a political issue. Its solution is more urgent than other common problems. Neither country can afford not to resolve this problem when very successful deals are occurring in other areas.

[Cristancho] Is the gulf issue the stumbling block in the relations between Colombia and Venezuela?

[Burelli] Yes, because it is a difficult issue and if it is not resolved, other obstacles will continue to exist. It is a major problem. The fluid way in which other issues are being handled should encourage us to reach an agreement on it.

[Cristancho] Colombia has lacked the will to avoid border incidents?

[Burelli] I think some attention has been lacking on the part of its government.

[Cristancho] What is the vulnerable point in Venezuela's relations with Brazil?

[Burelli] The stage setting of our relations with Brazil is the obscure and immense jungle that separates us. The approach to the border issue is different in this case because this is not an operative border. Last year, the limelight was on rambling gold-diggers [garimpeiros] and the Yanomami Indians and a conflict almost ensued but the two countries wisely prevented it. The issue is not easy. President Caldera plans to develop the southern region. The Brazilian and Venezuelan Governments should have an intense dialogue on this. The presidents of the two countries will meet at the beginning of March to try to jointly find a solution to common problems.

[Cristancho] How should hemispheric strength be promoted?

[Burelli] The OAS must make efforts to strengthen each of the member states, which must realize that the OAS must be the setting for discussing hemispheric matters.

[Cristancho] What is the role of the Group of Three, the South American Common Market, the Caribbean Common Market, and the Andean Group?

[Burelli] If the OAS works well and is used and respected by all, there is no need for subregional groups. There should be no bypassing the OAS because this weakens and brings discredit to this organization.

[Cristancho] Do you maintain your candidacy for the post of secretary general of the OAS?

[Burelli] The Venezuelan candidacy remains firm and we will continue to work to secure that post. The Foreign Ministry post is not contradictory to being a candidate to that OAS post. If you don't believe me, ask Bernd Niehaus, the Costa Rican aspirant to that post.

## Roundup of Economic Developments

*PA0402170094*

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on Venezuelan economic developments monitored through 2 February.

Three subsidiaries of the Venezuelan Guayana Corporation, namely the Venezuelan Bauxita Company, Interalumina, and Venalum, owe the Treasury about 820 million bolivares for the 1990-93 period. This debt accumulated as a result of delays in the payment of customs duties, which amounts to 700 million bolivares, and the value-added tax, VAT, which amounts to 120 million bolivares owed by Interalumina alone. (Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 25 Jan 94 p 2-4)

The General Bank Superintendency in 1993 signed several adjustment plans with credit institutions to ease the financial intermediation caused by increases in interest rates and by a reduction in the credit demand. Such plans call for capital increases, review of managerial processes, rationalization of expenditures and expansion programs, as well as the required modification of the data included in financial statements. (Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 25 Jan 94 p E-1)

Superintendent Anselmo Chuecos Perez has said that although the Foreign Investment Superintendency, Siex, is in charge of monitoring foreign investments, it is also responsible for evaluating which sectors should receive more investments. This facilitates an in-depth analysis of investment behavior and ensures the allocation of funds to sectors that need them most. He added that many foreigners are investing in the cement, steel, and iron industries because Venezuela has enough exploitable resources. He pointed out that $6 billion have been invested in the country and that the Netherlands was the country that invested the most in 1993. Siex does not monitor the hydrocarbon, banking, and insurance sectors. (Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 25 Jan 94)

It was officially reported that foreign investments decreased by $1.676 billion in 1993. Siex Superintendent Anselmo Chuecos reported that foreign investments amounted to $256 million in 1993. Investments in the manufacturing and financial sectors increased by 58 percent and 31 percent, respectively. Investments in the tourism sector increased by only 1 percent. (Paris AFP in Spanish 1606 GMT 26 Jan 94)

Central Statistics and Data Processing Office figures show that Colombia became the main market for nontraditional Venezuelan exports in 1993. Exports, other than oil and iron, to Colombia amounted to $765 million, which is a 64-percent increase from 1992. Meanwhile, Colombian imports amounted to $409 million, which is a significant decrease from 1992. (Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 29 Jan 94 p 18)

# Guyana

## Caricom Motions Passed Amid Government Criticism

*FL0402224494 Bridgetown CANA in English 1847 GMT 4 Feb 94*

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, 4 Feb, CANA—Three motions dealing with the Caribbean Community (Caricom) charter of civil society, the establishment of a Caribbean court of appeal and an assembly of Caribbean parliamentarians were unanimously passed in Guyana's parliament Thursday, but the government ran into some criticism.

Guyana's foreign minister, Clement Rohee, moving the first motion on the charter, said it was, in his "humble opinion," non-controversial and should be welcomed in all Caricom member states.

Rohee, however, faced criticism from the main opposition People's National Congress (PNC) and the small Working People's Alliance (WPA).

PNC shadow foreign minister, lawyer Clarissa Riehl, noted that the Guyana cabinet had considered the draft charter at a sitting in August last year. He said the draft should have been circulated in high schools, universities and in other public fora.

Riehl, who said the PNC supported the motion in principle, questioned whether any consultation on the charter had ever taken place and what form it would take in the future.

"I would like to know why a copy of the charter was not laid in parliament itself at some date prior to today's date and even at a minimum, why a copy of this charter, as a common courtesy, was not appended to the motion paper," the former magistrate told parliament.

"This administration, Mr. Speaker, appears to have the greatest difficulty in assimilating this term—consultation. They banter the word around and they don't seem to understand the meaning of it."

Riehl also asked about the structured programme to raise public awareness on the charter of civil society, suggesting the draft copy should have been "sent around" to become a talking point in the country.

She added: "Mr. Speaker, one gets the distinct impression also that this government is only paying lip-service to West Indian togetherness because these things are treated with such disdain."

Riehl also pointed out several similarities in the charter with principles enshrined in Guyana's Constitution, which she said were piloted by the PNC, including equality before the law, political rights and women's rights.

She urged Rohee to get the "largest number of people" involved in the consultative process regarding the charter.

WPA leader, economist Clive Thomas, said his party had long called for such a charter, but added it remained "disappointed" with the draft.

"I think that the charter, in our age, must be a charter which moves from the declaration of principles, from the statement of intent to the activation of enforceable covenants and rights for people with due procedures and institutions and mechanisms for redress," Dr. Thomas remarked.

He said the current charter is basically useless without any mechanisms for enforcement and any legal or other procedures to ensure it becomes an obligation for caricom states.

"Without the entrenchment of the rights in this charter into the laws of the institutions and the procedures of this land and in the rest of the Caribbean, it will remain the piece of paper on which it is written," he told parliament.

He questioned the point of having a charter talking about respecting the right to life which at the same time does not set up standards by which governments should be measured regarding children and maternal mortality and life expectancy.

"What can be more fundamental to the right of life than being able to live? How can you have a charter of civil society that ignores any standards altogether of the determination of the social rights of people in this caribbean region?" he asked.

"How can you speak about access to social services without defining precisely and in enforceable terms how people will get access to education, to health services, to sanitation and so forth that you can take to the court or some body for redress because the charter has the force of law?"

Thomas also criticised the West Indian Commission-proposed charter for the "vaguest of vague" references to environmental concerns and ignoring Amerindian rights.

"It doesn't even mention the word indigenous, almost as if it is completely abstracted from Guyana or even the part of the Caribbean where indigenous peoples still survive," Dr. Thomas declared.

He said the draft should be nothing more than a starting point for debate.

The charter, first proposed by the West Indian Commission, deals with a wide range of issues such as respect for fundamental civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, the rights of women and children, greater accountability and transparency in governance and a fair and open democratic process.

Leader of The United Force (TUF), Manzoor Nadir, also said he supported the bill in principle.

The Guyanese foreign minister defended the charter, saying the process has to start somewhere. He said it was not drafted by the Guyana Government, but was a regional document with inputs from all the countries.

"We have to start the process somewhere," Rohee said. "The process of consultation will be spread throughout the length and breadth of Guyana as far our possibilities allow."

Debate, he added, will begin after the motion has been passed in parliament.

Rohee also denied the Guyana Government has gone to sleep on a proposal put forward by Trinidad and Tobago's prime minister, Patrick Manning, calling for an economic and political union involving Barbados, Guyana and Trinidad.

"The Manning initiative has been overtaken by the proposal that was raised by the honourable prime minister of Barbados (Erskine Sandiford) who called for a confederation of Guyana, Trinidad and Barbados after or during the course of the heads of government meeting in the Bahamas (in 1993)," Rohee said.

Sandiford, Rohee added, has promised to circulate his thoughts on the confederation. "It is in the light of that development, Mr. Speaker, that the Manning initiative lost its momentum and was overtaken by the proposal advanced by the distinguished prime minister of Barbados."

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